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The Lady

10 JULY 2015

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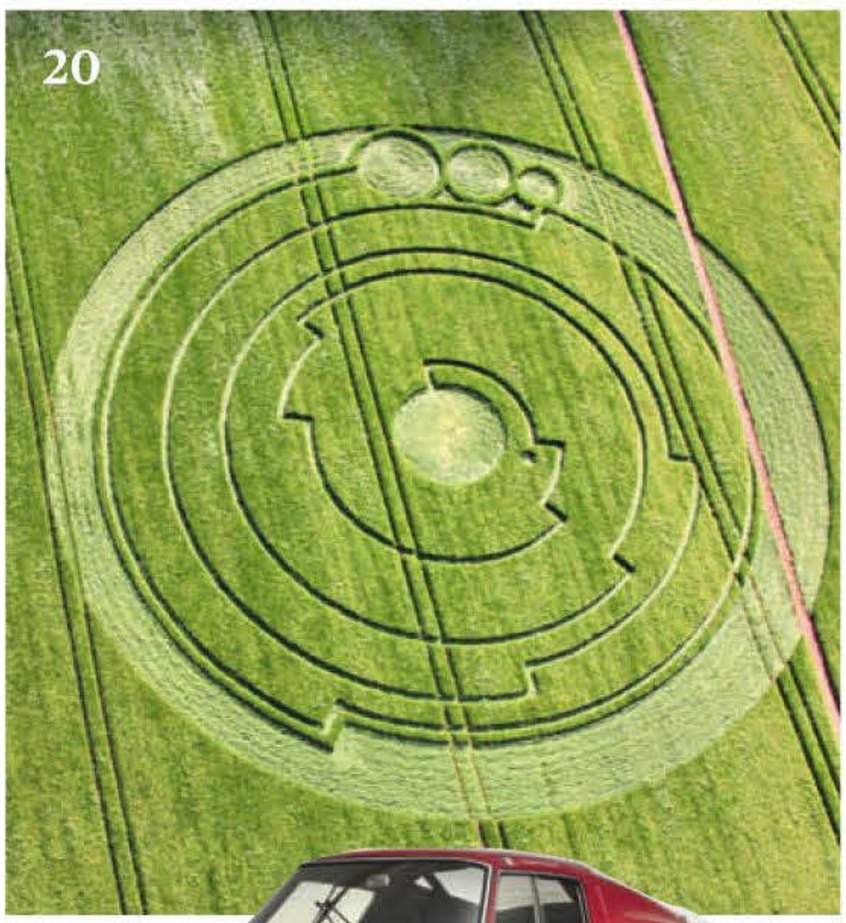
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Editor Matt Warren
Editor's PA and Letters editor Gillian Spickernell
Deputy editor Sam Taylor
Staff writer Melonie Clarke
Books editor Juanita Coulson
Art director Claire Wood
With thanks to Emma Howcutt
Chief sub editor Gill Moore
With thanks to Robert Todd, Kathy Young
Picture editor Samantha Reilly
With thanks to Jo Walker
Work experience Katrina Schollenberger
Archive Wendy Wilson
Offers office manager Caroline Hollingshead
Head of sales Andrea Taylor
Display ad manager Peter Shepherd
Classifieds manager Kath Hanley
Ad production coordinator Justin Harrison
Circulation office manager Nadine Rooke
Head of marketing Nicolas Boize
IT manager Sergiu Canschi
Managing director Helen Robinson
Publisher and Chief executive Ben Budworth

Cover image: Bette Midler





Dear Readers,

Just in case you missed it, there was a heatwave last week. And oh, the melodrama. Several newspaper websites even reported on the Heatwave Live, with The Guardian highlighting the lengths to which some public bodies went to keep the public safe and well. One Kent County Council campaign, for example, urged locals to consume lots of water, 'enough to make you pee at least four times a day.' Golly.

Rest assured that the well-oiled workings of *The Lady* kept ticking over, resulting in this dazzlingly bright summer issue. We have the brilliant Bette Midler, back in the UK for the first time in 35 years, on her transatlantic tour, singing at 69 and keeping her 'pumps' in fine fettle on a treadmill; the remarkable objects that draw back the curtain on the working life of Wuthering Heights author Emile Brontë, and an intriguing peek into the secrets of that very British summer phenomenon: crop circles.

'The brilliant Bette Midler is back in the UK for the first time in 35 years'

There's Robin Gibson, former chief curator of the National Portrait Gallery, on his favourite portraits – with pets; Thomas Blaikie on whether we should be civil to those we dislike, and, in a rather special cameo, Rachel Johnson, the former editor of *The Lady*, on impatience, her new novel and, yes, dear old Coco.

Enjoy – whatever the weather.

Very best wishes,

Matt Warren

Matt Warren, Editor

What's new on lady.co.uk

YOU CAN WIN...

- A De'Longhi Dedica Bar Pump Coffee Machine and Coffee Grinder, worth £170 – we have one to give away (right).
- A hamper full of drinks, a cocktail shaker and colourful picnic rug, courtesy of Galvanina, producer of premium organic Italian drinks. We have four to go.
- Goods from Natco Foods, Kingfisher beer, Soul Tree wine, and Indian-inspired treats, all neatly packed in a hamper by the folks from Curry For Change. And cookery books by Curry For Change ambassadors Atul Kochhar, Dhruv Baker, Mallika Basu and a signed copy from Cyrus Todiwala. We have one to give away.



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THE LADY LOVES...



Bath mat in Deckchair Stripe, £39.99, Coastal Home: 01625-578105, www.coastalhome.co.uk



Wahta Maple Water, 4x250ml, £8.95, Fortnum & Mason: 020-7734 8040, www.fortnumandmason.com



Eichholtz Lamp La Marina, £348, Sweetpea & Willow: 0345-257 2627, www.sweetpeaandwillow.com



Summerbag beach bag, £19.95, Joules: 0845-250 7170, www.joules.com



Beach Girls, 17x9x6.5cm (set of two), £12.99, Ocean: 07530-057614, www.oceanlifestyle.co.uk



Beach hut cushion, 40x40cm, £16.99, Ocean: as before

Royal Doulton Pacific tapas plates, set of six, £27, John Lewis: 0345-604 9049, www.johnlewis.com





Natural wicker tall four-drawer storage unit, £100, Next: 0333-777 8000, www.next.co.uk



Coastal Spirit scoop-neck swimsuit, £69.95, Lands' End: 0800-376 7974, www.landsend.co.uk



Summer tea towel, £15, Coastal Home: as before



Olympus Stylus 1s digital camera, £429, Jessops: 0344-800 4444, www.jessops.com



Waterproof gadget pouch, £4.95, RNLI Shop: 0300-300 9916, www.rnlishop.org.uk



Gold plated seahorse earrings, £14, Natural History Museum Shop: 020-7942 5494, www.nhmshop.co.uk

Poppy peep-toe, £55, Seasalt Cornwall: 01326-640075, www.seasaltcornwall.co.uk





Compass bathroom cabinet, £260, Obi Furniture: 01275-464964, www.obifurniture.co.uk



Bunting necklace, red/white/blue, £35, Tatty Devine: 01634-818772, www.tattydevine.com



Lobster aluminium crackers, £8.50 each, The Beach Hut: 01892-529686, www.thebeachhut.com



Summer Stripe deckchair sling, £15 (frame, £40 extra), John Lewis: as before



Mini globe, £9.95 each, Rigby & Mac: 020-8761 1011, www.rigbyandmac.com



Pols Potten Pill glass vase, £32, Amara: 0800-587 7645, www.amara.com



Catseye Deckchair Dogs small bag, £11, Selfridges: 0800-123400 www.selfridges.com



Riviera striped jersey dress, £29.95, Joules: as before



Pool hat, £25, Seasalt Cornwall: as before



Dado Collezione Apple iPhone 5/5s mother of pearl case, £80, Case Hut: 01923-274796, www.casehut.com



Lifesaver Tea (80 tea bags), £2.25, RNLI Shop: as before



Large blue metal storage trunk, £45, Habitat: 0344-499 4686, www.habitat.co.uk



Large Tide Clock (53cm dia), £350, available for preorder, Bramwell Brown: 020-7183 3651, www.bramwellbrown.com



Coastal metal coolbox, £54.99, available from Argos stores or online: 0345-640 2020, www.argos com

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The Telegraph

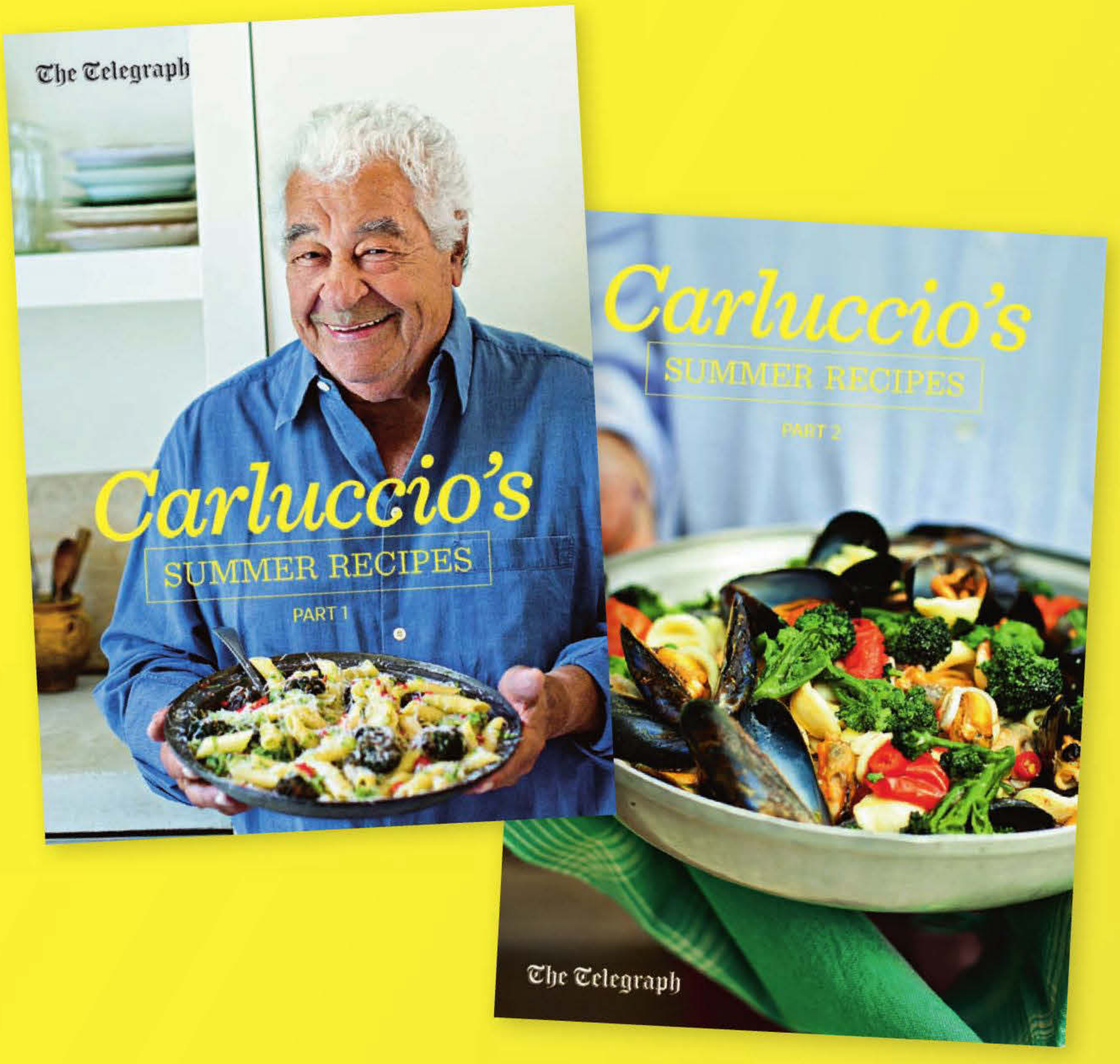
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THE LADY BRIEFING

Our pick of the week's colourful news and views



▲ CHARLOTTE GOES TO CHURCH

Nine-week-old Princess Charlotte was christened last weekend, in only her second ever public appearance – and the Cambridges' first outing together as a family of four. The ceremony, at Sandringham's Church of St Mary Magdalene, was attended by just 21 official guests, including the Queen and Prince Philip and Charlotte's five godparents, none of whom are royal. The Princess was pushed by her mother in a 1950s Millson pram used by the Queen for the Duke of York and the Earl of Wessex. She was baptised by the Archbishop of Canterbury using the 175-year-old Lily Font, which left the Tower of London for the first time, and containing water from the River Jordan.

REX FEATURES; iSTOCK

IN VINO ERROR-TAS?



A survey by the International Wine Challenge has found that many Brits are guilty of serious wine 'faux pas', with nearly 40% storing reds in the fridge, 20% drinking it from tumblers and some pronouncing the 't' in Pinot and Merlot (horrors!). If you chill your reds you're in good company, though: both the IWC and our own Henry Jeffreys (see 3 July issue) endorse this.

HAPPY FAMILIES

'The family' is still alive and well in Britain, if a new study is to be believed. The report by the Office for National Statistics using its own data and that of the OECD, says that 90.9% of Britons say they are satisfied with their family life.

BRITAIN'S POWER LADIES



Radio 4's Woman's Hour has revealed its 2015 Power List, an annual ranking of the women who most influence our lives. Who would make your top 10? Write to the usual Bedford Street address or email at letters@lady.co.uk

1 Nicola Sturgeon, Scottish First Minister
2 Anna Wintour, editor-in-chief of American Vogue
3 Angelina Jolie, actress (above)
4 Katharine Viner, editor-in-chief of The Guardian
5 Camilla Cavendish, director of Downing Street Policy Unit
6 Sia, singer-songwriter
7 Caitlyn Jenner, transgender celebrity
8 Karen Blackett, MediaCom UK CEO
9 Zanny Minton Beddoes, editor-in-chief of The Economist
10 Sara Khan, Inspire co-founder

Upstairs Downstairs

UPSTAIRS Ever wondered how to keep your cut flowers looking their best? Well, the Duchess of Cornwall has offered some timely advice, revealing she adds some lemonade to her vases. Speaking to volunteers for the charity Floral Angels, she said, 'If you put it [lemonade] in then they do keep longer and it helps keep the water clear.'

DOWNSTAIRS More than 1,000 workers at the BBC are set to lose their jobs, The Guardian reports, as the broadcaster faces a £150m funding shortfall. The BBC's director general Tony Hall said, 'A simpler, leaner BBC is the right thing to do and it can also help us meet the financial challenges we face.'





THE ARMY'S FIRST LADY

Good news for women in the forces. Brigadier Sharon Nesmith (above) has become the first woman to lead an operational brigade. The Times reports that Brigadier Nesmith commands 1st United Kingdom Signal Brigade, which provides communications support for military operations. According to an Army biography, 'Outside of work, Brigadier Nesmith has a love of all things outdoors: marathon and fell running... mountain biking and skiing.'

36.7°C – the maximum temperature reached on 1 July, the hottest July day since records began



WELL DONE...

to the England women's football team (left), who finished third in the Women's World Cup in Canada after losing narrowly to defending champions Japan in the semi-finals. Let's hope the Lionesses' sterling performance inspires the men to raise their game.

A victory for ramblers

Hundreds of historic rights of way could be reopened after a 20-year court battle. Ex-Ramblers Association secretary John Andrews won a case to reopen two bridleways in his Cotswold village, after he noticed they weren't featured on maps and Wiltshire county council refused to re-establish them. The judges' ruling sets a precedent for 500 to 1,000 other locations in England and Wales.



3 BEST

TICKET HOLDERS



Feline card holder, £125, Charlotte Olympia: 020-3598 2955, www.charlotteolympia.com



ID & Travel Card Case, £50, Aspinal of London: 0845-052 6900, www.aspinaloflondon.com

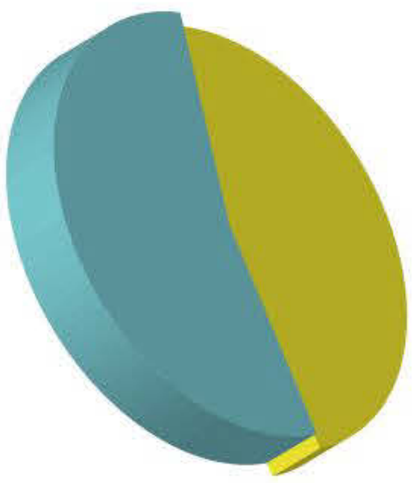


Little Birds ticket holder, £4, Cath Kidston: 0845-026 2440, www.cathkidston.com

STATISTIC OF THE WEEK

54%

The percentage of women who dye their hair to hide its real colour from their partners, according to a survey by Crown Clinic, Manchester.



TUNISIAN ATTACK VICTIMS REMEMBERED

A minute's silence was observed last Friday in memory of the 38 people – including 30 Britons – who died in the terrorist attack in Tunisia on 26 June. The Queen and the Prime Minister led the silence, at midday, with play delayed at Wimbledon and flags flown at half mast across the country.

A GOOD WEEK FOR...

VEGANS, as a meat-, dairy- and egg-free diet is declared the best way to lose weight. A study published in the Journal of General Internal Medicine found that over a year-and-a-half, those on a vegan diet lost on average 5.5lb more than those on other plans. The research involved 1,151 people aged 18 to 82.



A BAD WEEK FOR...

THE OVER-65s. A survey has found that 23 per cent of retirees are owed money by their grown-up children, with the average amount owed around £3,100. Those in the northeast are the most likely to hand over cash to their offspring, while those in the southwest are the least likely.

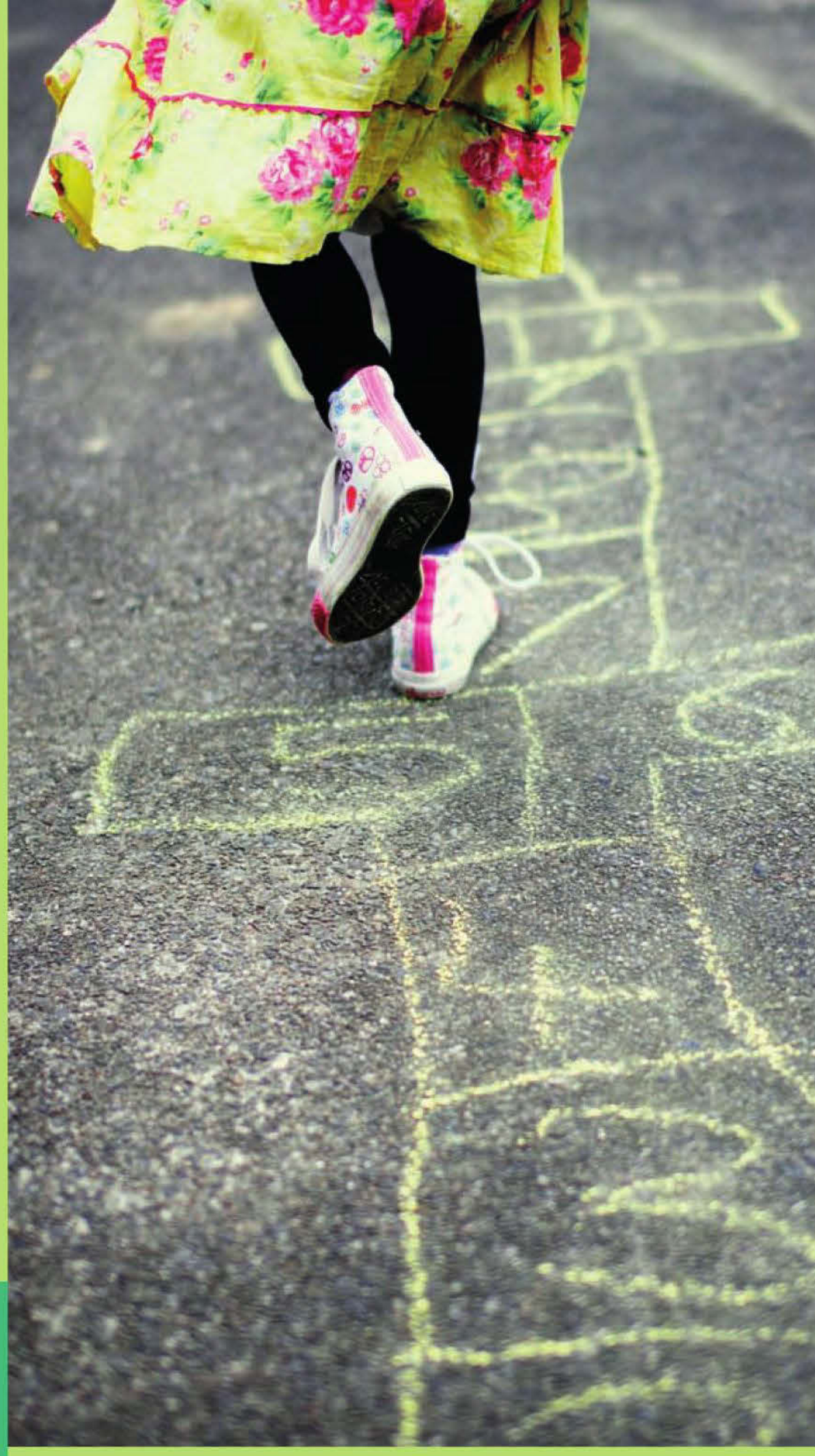


SPIDERS CAN SWIM. SHOCK!

In news that will strike fear into the heart of every arachnophobe, scientists have discovered that spiders can travel across water by using their legs as sails and their silk as an anchor. Nowhere is safe, basically.

ONE CHILDHOOD

LET'S MAKE IT COUNT



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>
> *MORE HUMAN*, STEVE HILTON, 2015

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LETTERS

LETTER OF THE WEEK



THIS WEEK'S PRIZE
The writer of our letter of the week wins a Fortnum & Mason tea hamper donated by rural insurer NFU Mutual. NFU Mutual was founded in a tea shop in Stratford-upon-Avon over a century ago, and in celebration of its long-standing affinity with tea, this charming hamper, worth £60, makes a perfect gift. The selection of goods includes: Loose Leaf Royal Blend Tea, Earl Grey Classic Tea and rich butter Royal Blend Tea Biscuits. www.nfumutual.co.uk

IT'S A PLEASURE

For too long I have purchased magazines that lack any substance, instead being crammed with a plethora of diet advice while chronicling the lives of so-called celebrities – all very bland.

Last week, I was determined not to be vexed by my choice, and after scanning the alternatives I cast my eye towards *The Lady*. Having admittedly disregarded the magazine previously because I deemed it too highbrow, this time I placed it in my basket.

What an absolute pleasure! I was amazed by the contents – they were so varied. The feature about Athena the octopus (Octopuses Have Souls Too, 26 June issue) was enchanting, while the balance of reviews, fashion and puzzles filled my afternoon with delight.

This is the magazine for me, and it's not highbrow or pretentious in the slightest – if only I had realised this sooner.
Anne-Marie Imundi, Gateacre, Liverpool

SPIN CYCLE OF LIFE

Sam Taylor's article on launderettes (My Battle Of Hastings, 19 June issue) brought a smile to my face as I remembered some 'transient holidaymakers' using my local launderette many years ago. They were an American family with teenage children. One of the boys gaily put his money in the soap-powder dispenser and pressed the button. The look of horror on his face as the powder tumbled out all over the floor was very amusing. He hadn't put a plastic cup underneath, because in America the powder was always dispensed in a small cardboard box!
Mrs LC Bryan, Wimbledon, London

NAPKIN NO-NO

Thomas Blaikie's advice on napkins (The Lady Guide To Modern Manners, 19 June issue) reminded me of a tricky situation many years ago, which may be of interest to your readers.

When in business with my husband, we found the best way to deal with our overseas agents and customers was to entertain them in our home. I noticed that our guests would pick up a chicken leg or a lamb chop with my freshly laundered, good-quality linen napkins, then proceed to eat delicately. Horrors!

Since then I have always provided a supply of good-quality paper napkins. Much more hygienic, much more colourful, easy to fold into pretty shapes and no greasy linen napkins, to launder. How times have changed.
Marjorie G Turner, Seahouses, Northumberland

TURN ON, DROP OFF

Regarding the letter about insomnia (Light Sleeper, 5 June issue), my suggestion is a music player or iPod. Ask someone in your family to load it with your favourite music. I have a computer and use iTunes.

With earphones you will not disturb others, and after a while you can pull them out, turn it off and go to sleep. The iPod is expensive, but the iPod shuffle is much cheaper, while also being small and easy to turn on and off in the dark.

I have collected albums for many years and still buy from iTunes, so I have a tremendous choice of superb music and songs. One of the jolliest albums is Singalong With Max Bygraves, but if you love old songs, tenor Jonas Kaufmann's CD You Mean The World To Me will melt your heart.
Carole Weinstein, Winchmore Hill, London

GLORIOUS GARDENS

On Sunday 28 June we went to the Faversham Open Gardens Day festival, after reading about it in Sarah Langton-Lockton's column (Garden Plotting, 19 June issue). Being lovers of Faversham, we spent the day visiting all sorts of gardens, some beautiful, some not so, and Sarah's garden was just as lovely as Sarah herself. It is a

Pet of the week...



Name Pepper
Breed Jack Russell/Lakeland terrier
Age 5 years
Owner Miles and Caroline Norris
Likes Tennis balls and swimming
Dislikes The postman and the window cleaner

Do you have a special pet? Send a picture (and their name, age and likes) along with your name to the address or email printed opposite, and they could star here.

If you have a comment on this week's issue, would like to share something, or need our help answering a question, please do write to **Letters, The Lady, 39-40 Bedford Street, London WC2E 9ER** or email **letters@lady.co.uk**

work in progress, but such love and care have been lavished on it that we are going to return next year to see the results.

In every garden we visited (about 12 in all, out of the 30 open) we were asked where we had heard of the event. '*The Lady*!' we said. The magazine has a lot of kudos in Faversham. Thank you for a lovely day out.
Ruth Edwards, London

HOORAY FOR AUDREY

It was lovely to read the tribute to Audrey Hepburn by her son Luca Dotti, recalling her early life in London (Welcome Home, Audrey, 26 June issue). It was especially timely for me, as I had won tickets in your competition to see Breakfast At Tiffany's at the Royal Albert Hall on 13 June. I then booked to see the exhibition of photographs at the National Portrait Gallery. An Audrey-fest is the hottest ticket in town.

It is reassuring to know that even icons are self-doubters. Audrey was actually rather tall, but despite her height she always looked so diminutive and was, and still is, My Fair Lady. Style personified.
Christine Swann, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex

HOT TOPIC

Would you consider publishing an article on climate change/global warming? We hear so much on this topic these days, and as a non-scientist it is not easy to sort fact from fiction. There is no shortage of prophets of doom, but are they right?

It would be useful to know what is really attributable to our misuse or overuse of the Earth, and what is out of our control and down to the force and might of nature.

I admire your handling of serious topics and think some of your readers might share my interest in this subject.
Margaret Morrison, Richmond, Surrey

SUN SENSE

With cancer levels so high and rising, early detection and treatment are of paramount importance. In your list of symptoms (Be Cancer-Aware, 12 June issue) you did not include a changing mole – enlarging, itching, changing colour or bleeding. This could be indicative of a very dangerous malignant melanoma, now the fifth commonest cancer in the UK and one of the commoner cancers in the 15-34 age group.

So many young women are putting themselves at risk by using sunbeds and enjoying sun-seeking holidays. Being tanned seems to be a prerequisite for being attractive – unfortunate if one's natural colouring is fair.
Pam Cooper, Stockton-on-Tees

SOAKING IT UP

My grandfather was a pianist on the Cunard liners, and at his suggestion (possibly because it was on board ship) I started reading *The Lady* around the age of 16, as he said it was an entertaining read. So when I read the letter about the rejuvenating benefits of sponges (Ex-Sponge The Problem, 26 June issue), I chuckled out loud.

Meanwhile, the letter in the same issue from the reader with no television (TV Trouble) made me curious as to how she spends her time. Perhaps she is an artist, has animals or just takes the time to enjoy the simple pleasures in life. I would like to congratulate her too.
Wendy Tanner, Hayes, Bromley, Kent

THE LADY *reserves the right to edit letters as necessary. Please provide your full name, address and telephone number or email.*

THE LADY & I

Employment, a home from home... A reader reveals how *The Lady* has shaped her life – from before she was born

My connection with *The Lady* goes back many years. When my grandfather returned from the First World War with shell shock, *The Lady* offered him a job. My grandmother was heartily relieved, as jobs were hard to find for many returning home at this time.

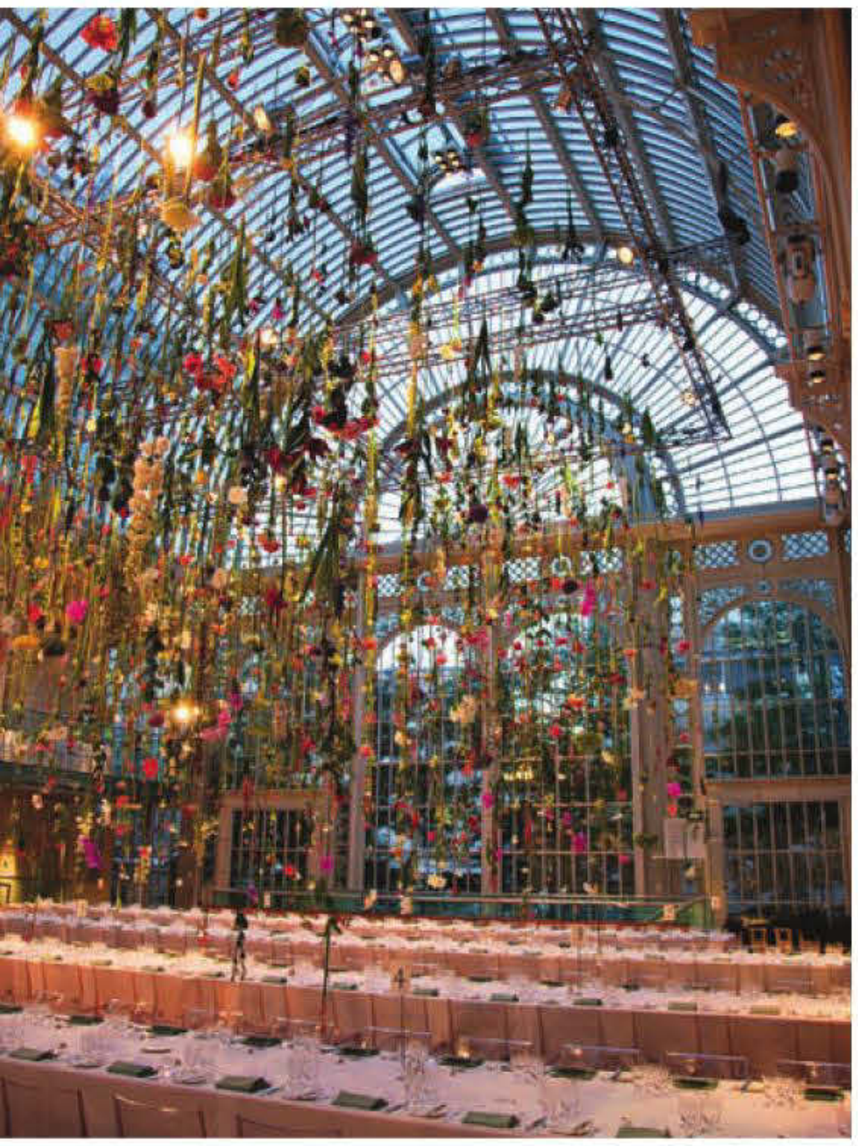
Many years later, when my brother and I were young, my mother, an avid reader, spotted an advertisement for a holiday cottage on the north coast of Cornwall at Constantine Bay, and took her little family down for what was to become an annual stay.

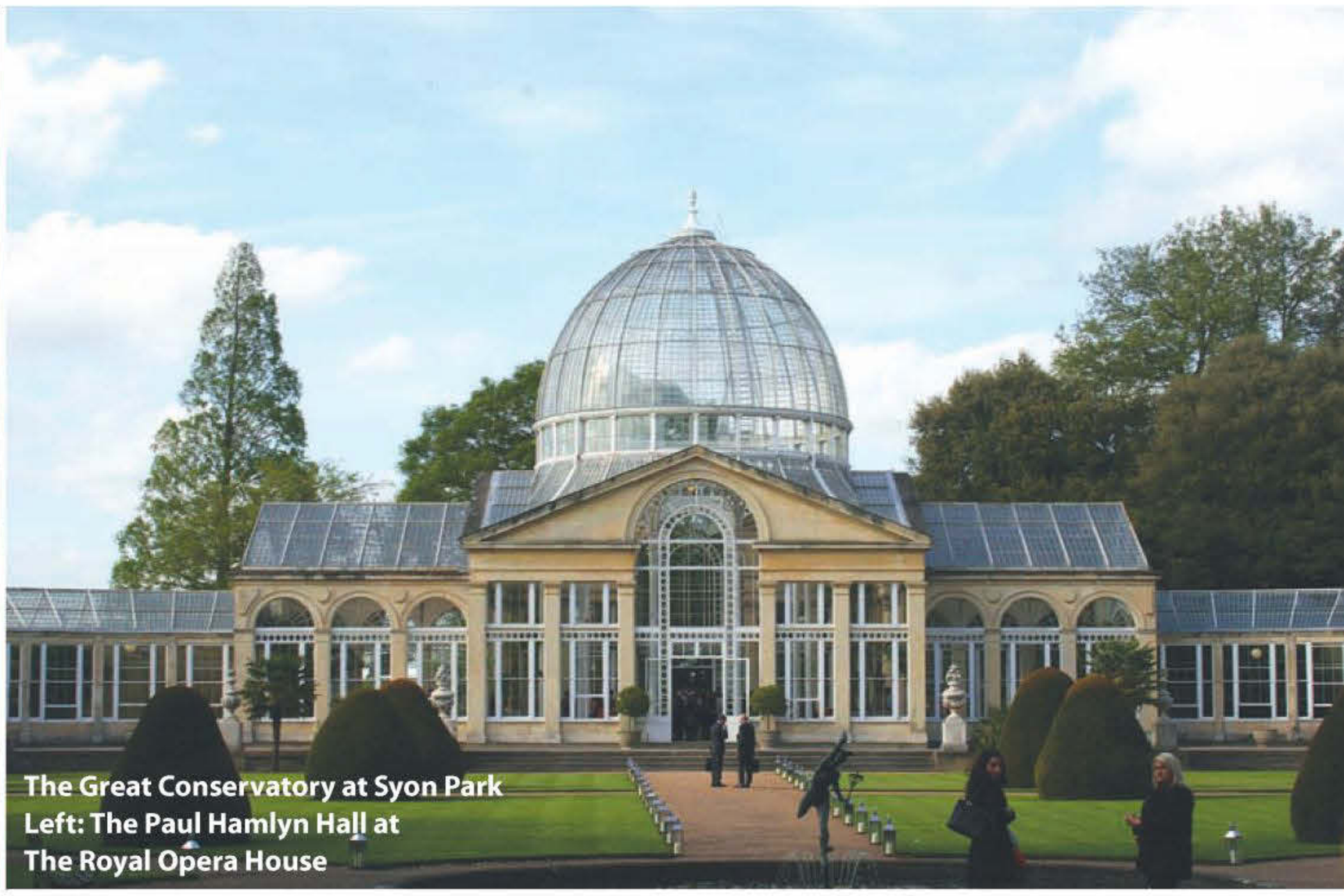
In the 1970s, while working in London as a numismatist (coin dealer), I was reading *The Lady* and decided to submit some articles regarding coin collecting. To my delight they were published. The articles gave an insight into not only the joy of collecting, but also the popularity at the time of acquiring coins and banknotes as an alternative to more conventional investments.

I am now about to celebrate my 65th birthday – and where better to do it than Cornwall? My husband and I visit the county four or five times a year, and our two married sons take their families there for holidays. We all feel an affinity with the area and the people we know there. Additionally, my brother and his wife live there permanently. It's funny to think it is all due to *The Lady* and an advertisement my mother answered years ago!
Jane Kenworthy, South Godstone, Surrey

The writer of The Lady & I wins a Fortnum & Mason tea hamper donated by rural insurer NFU Mutual. NFU Mutual was founded in a tea shop in Stratford-upon-Avon over a century ago, and to celebrate the company's long-standing affinity with tea, this charming hamper, worth £60, makes a perfect gift. For further details: www.nfumutual.co.uk Send your stories, of 350 words, to our Bedford Street address (above), marked The Lady & I.







The Great Conservatory at Syon Park
Left: The Paul Hamlyn Hall at
The Royal Opera House

An event to remember

Celebrate a special occasion in the grand surroundings of an iconic venue

There's no doubt that a milestone event is worthy of a suitable celebration, from a golden wedding anniversary to an 80th birthday, it's an occasion where everything needs to excel: the catering, the decoration, the entertainment and, above all, the venue. The experience needs to feel tailor-made, communicating a grand sense of celebration to every guest.

With so many spaces now available, choosing a venue can be a daunting task. Not everyone is in a position to hire a dedicated party planner, so it can be difficult to know where to start; sometimes it can require a certain degree of thinking outside of the box to find the perfect location that embodies the subject of the event. The wealth of heritage and landmark buildings across the UK provide a great source of inspiration, from period properties to modernist monuments, with endless theming opportunities.

'Venues go the extra mile to accommodate your requests; the only limit to what can be achieved is the imagination'

For example, if the guest of honour had a long and distinguished naval career, one might consider a venue with a nautical theme, possibly HMS Belfast, The Old Royal Naval College or Cutty Sark. Alternatively, if the birthday boy/girl was green-fingered, a venue with beautiful grounds, such as a royal palace or a stately home, offers a stunning and playful setting. Once the perfect location has been chosen, it is crucial to sit down with the assigned event manager and discuss the logistics, ambitions and expectations of the occasion. They will be the person who delivers the event and will be involved in each step of the planning process, helping to make the milestone a fun celebration, rather than an organisational headache. Often, milestone events have highly-specific requirements, but most on-site teams have a pool of expertise, gathered from hosting everything from bar mitzvahs and birthdays to ceremonies and celebrations, to meet individual demands. Working with long-standing suppliers, the event can become incredibly personal in terms of theming. Bespoke elements, such as a particular dish that needs to be served or preferred flowers in table centres, or a particular type of entertainment are achievable.

Often it's just a question of asking the venue if they can accommodate a specific request, and not be afraid to appear foolish or outlandish. Usually venues will go the extra mile to make such requests a reality. For map enthusiasts, at the Royal Geographical Society, a cartographer can bring out various antique maps and explain their significance; or embark on a private tour of a world famous art gallery under the expert guidance of a curator.

More often than not, the only limit to what can be achieved is the imagination. I went to a wedding recently at the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford where the couple had a treasure hunt throughout the three galleries where the reception was held. It was very personal to them, but it was so clever in the way that it broke the ice among the guests and drew us into the galleries, so we all had a chance to see the key exhibits.

Finally, it is important to remember that these unique spaces are not the reserve of the corporate. Like most landmark and unusual venues across the country we welcome all types of business, especially milestone events where we can show just how creative we can be to deliver an unforgettable experience.

Moya Maxwell, chair, Unique Venues of London

◆ *For more details, email enquiries@uniquevenuesoflondon.co.uk or go to www.uniquevenuesoflondon.co.uk*



MY BATTLE OF HASTINGS

Is anyone immune from 'view' envy? It's unlikely, says Sam Taylor



Mark Twain once said, 'Buy land, they're not making it any more.' The same could be said for sea views. A window looking out to water has always commanded a high premium, especially for holiday homes. Who doesn't want the room with the beachfront access?

It would be more than a slight exaggeration to say that Rock House had 'beachfront' access, but it does have some unique views over the rooftops of the old town and down towards the fishing fleet on the foreshore. It was the primary reason for sinking every penny of what would have been my children's inheritance (and any chance of university fees) into a house that, three years on, is still limping towards completion and chasing cash flow.

It would also, I now realise, be an absolute exaggeration to say it has the best views. Like all things in our complex, social hierarchy, views are rife for competition. It would be a rare (and extremely self-contained) person who felt smug about staring at a brick wall. The more people I become friends with in Hastings, the greater my fall from my elevated belief in superiority of my own views.

There is Ginny and MJ's house up on the East Hill.

'It is an exaggeration to say that I have beachfront access, but I do have unique views over the rooftops'



Enough to give townies the beachfront blues

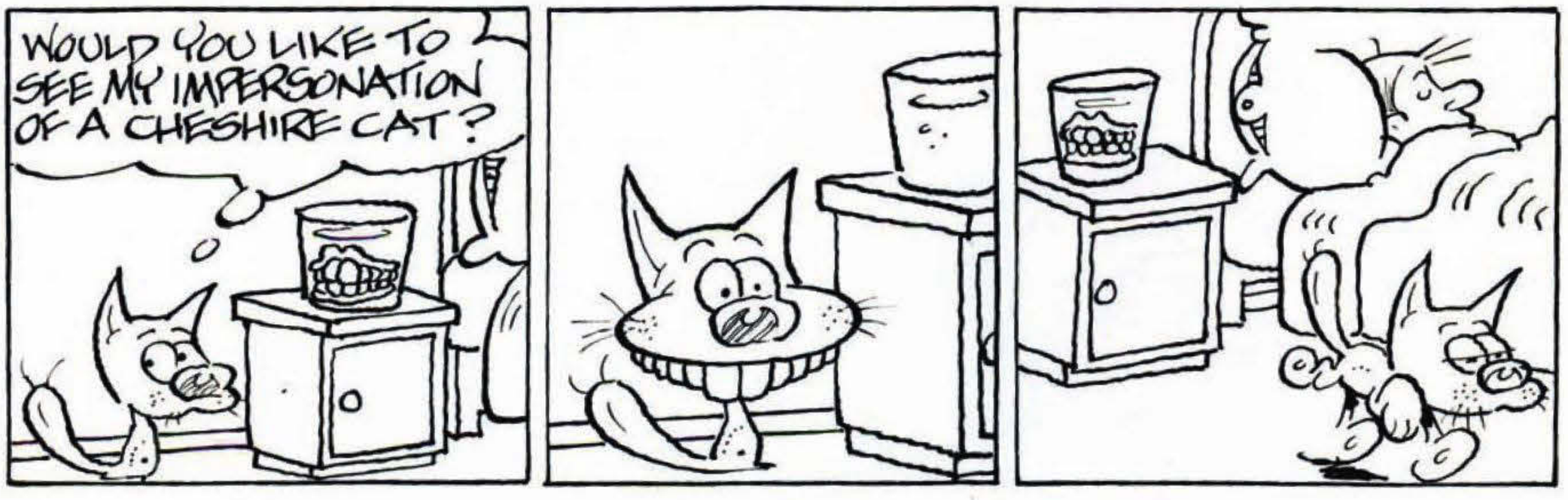
Their perch is so steep they can see down the coast to Beachy Head and are far enough away from the front to not have the litter of the fairground crowding the foreground in their sunset photographs – mine are marred by the neon lights of the teacup ride and the Donuts stall.

Then there is Mel across the road in the double-fronted, lateral conversion flat. She looks over my house and straight out to sea – the arcade miraculously photoshopped out by the rise on the hill. Michael is in the largest and oldest house in the street, with the best bathroom in Britain, where he can lay back in warm, soapy water looking out through the French doors of his Juliet balcony straight out to France – as if bathing on the brow of a ship. It's hard not to feel crestfallen by this kind of competition.

Recently, I made a new friend, Michelle, and invited her over for tea. She called to thank me before admitting to serious view envy. 'I can't stop thinking about it,' she wailed. Is it wrong to admit that I high-fived myself?

◆ *Next week: Sailing away*

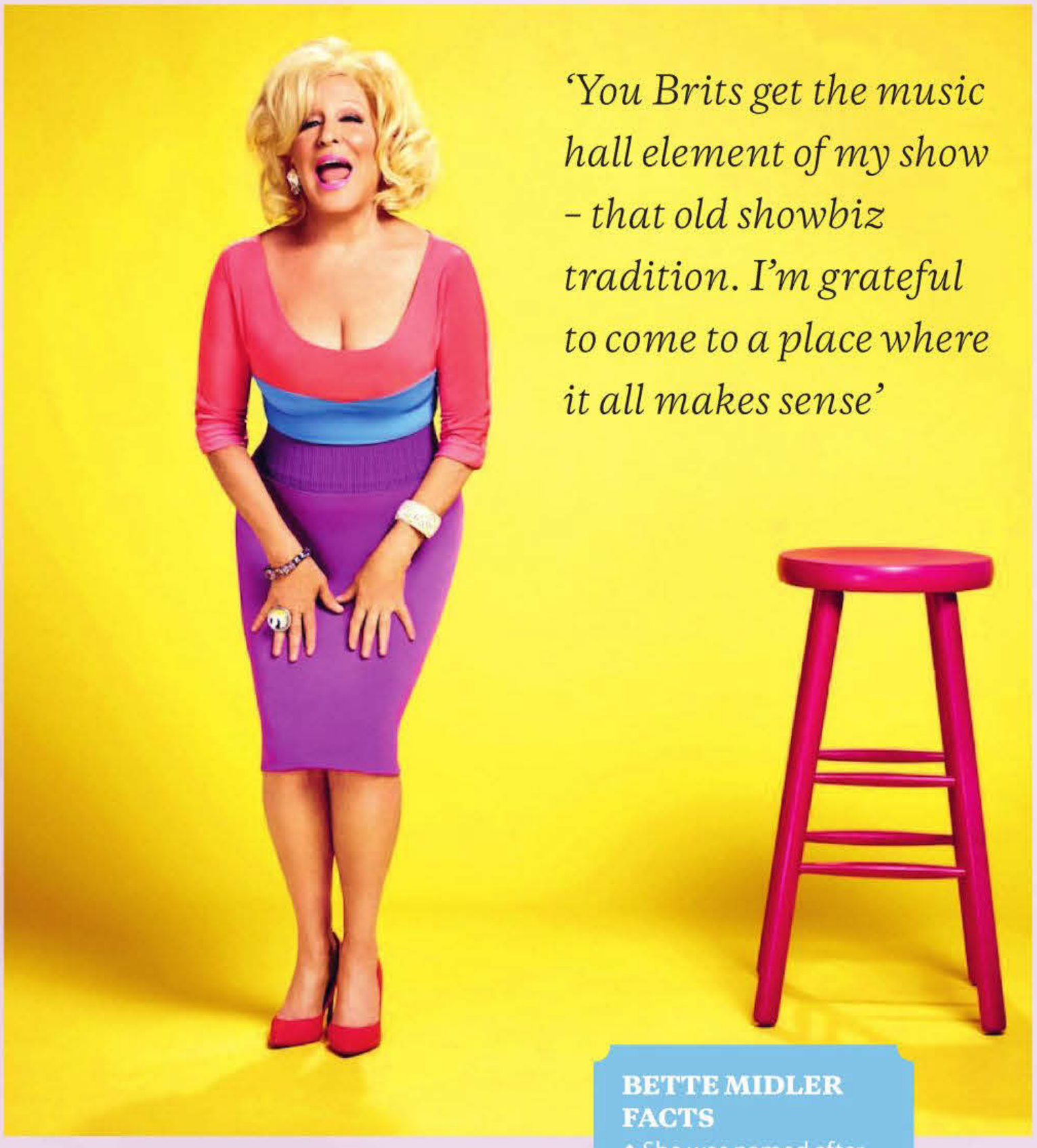
BEDFORD *by Keith Reynolds*



iSTOCK

WIND *beneath* HER WINGS

Famous for making us laugh, cry and sing out loud, Bette Midler is back in the UK for the first time in 35 years. By Katie Wright



'You Brits get the music hall element of my show – that old showbiz tradition. I'm grateful to come to a place where it all makes sense'

This July, Bette Midler will play a string of gigs across the UK, her first here since 1980. So why has she been away so long? Was it something we said? 'No, no, no,' insists Midler, who is perched on a sofa in a plush London hotel suite. 'I wanted to come, but I guess life interfered.'

To be fair, the artist, also known as The Divine Miss M – the title of her 1972 debut album – has been pretty busy. As well as racking up a trio of Grammy Awards and selling more than 30 million records worldwide, she has proved her acting chops, starring in comedies like The First Wives Club and Hocus Pocus, not to mention the ultimate tearjerker Beaches, for which she also recorded her most famous ballad, Wind Beneath My Wings. In terms of music and movie success, only Cher can rival the Hawaii-born performer.

Midler hasn't shied away from the stage, either. She completed a two-year stint of nightly live performances in Las Vegas in 2010, a time she looks back on as 'the most beautiful show I ever did. That means a lot to me'.

Not that she misses the gruelling schedule.

'It was hard work,' she recalls. 'I had a little adrenal failure, where you just can't get up every night. I was having a lot of vitamin B12 shots to get through it.'

More recently, Miss M was back in the studio, recording It's The Girls!, an album of girl group covers. It was an idea she jokes had been 'floating around since 1871 or something'.

Featuring ladies-only tracks from the 1930s onwards, Midler says she wanted the production style to reflect the 1960s girl group heyday. 'It was rough back in those days. The music had an immediacy, because it wasn't processed, and that's part of the charm, selling the music to teenagers because they sounded like teenagers.'

So does the 69-year-old think her voice can cope with such a youthful sound? 'There are certain parts of my voice that sound very young. I never smoked like a real fiend, so I didn't lose the top end of my voice. You can keep your high voice, but you have to look after yourself.

'I run on the treadmill. And it's only for the pumps – I don't care whether I'm thin or fat, but I care about whether the lungs are working to drive the voice. It's like a car, you have to take care of it, clean those spark plugs, baby!' she adds, laughing.

Whatever Midler's doing, it's clearly working; it's hard to believe that the slender 5ft 1in singer is heading for ▷

BETTE MIDLER FACTS

- She was named after Hollywood actress Bette Davis, but her mother believed Bette was one syllable, so she has always been called Bet.
- She worked at a Dole pineapple processing plant in Hawaii in her early years.
- The role of Deloris in Sister Act (1992) was originally written for her; however, she decided to turn it down.
- Barry Manilow started out as Bette's arranger and pianist.
- Bette says she is easily distracted but focused: 'I'm like a dog with a bone. I can't let go until it's done, and done well.'
- She is an avid environmentalist and doesn't let plastic in her house. All the water bottles are glass.



her eighth decade. Nibbling on macadamia nuts and apricots during our chat (which she happily shares), Midler tells me she keeps up with contemporary music too, and chose all the modern tracks on the album, such as TLC's Waterfalls, herself. In fact, she wishes she'd been able to do more. 'I was going to do Bills, Bills, Bills by Destiny's Child, because I love it.'

The R'n'B hit didn't make the final cut, but she says she's a huge fan of 'fantastic' Destiny's Child. 'They were the last of the girl groups. I can't think of another group that had their power. They had the close harmonies and the attitude to go with it. It's otherworldly what Beyoncé can do.'

Midler professes her admiration for 'divine' Nicole Scherzinger too, but she doesn't feel the love for all the female artists in the charts today. She hit headlines when, during an interview, she slated 22-year-old pop star Ariana Grande for 'slithering around on a couch, looking so ridiculous'.

But the pair soon made up, after Grande responded on Twitter saying she's 'always a fan no matter what', and then Midler replying, asking for forgiveness.

Right now, the universally adored star is focusing on the future and the transatlantic tour. 'People here [in the UK] are real music fans. They like that I tell jokes on stage, they like the entertainment, but really they want a music show. And you Brits get the music hall element of it all. You have that old showbiz tradition. In the States, a lot of people think what I'm doing is brand new, but it's so very, very old. I'm grateful to come to a place where this all makes sense, without having to explain it.'

As usual for an artist of advanced years, rumour has it this will be Miss M's farewell tour. Are the whispers true? 'I don't know – possibly,' she admits. 'I don't know how wise it is to go on forever. If the spirit is willing and the flesh is strong, then go for it, but if something is holding you back, you shouldn't be chained to the idea that you can't retire.

'There are people who come alive when they think about the possibilities of travelling in their retirement.'

One of those people is Midler herself, who talks animatedly about a trip to Mexico City last year. 'My whole life, people have been telling me not to go, that it's polluted and filthy, but going there was the greatest thing that ever happened to me.

'I care that the lungs are working to drive the voice. It's like a car, you have to clean those spark plugs, baby!'

'It wasn't the cleanest place I've ever been, it certainly has major problems with inequality, but there was a vibrancy there and the food was fantastic, and the art and the history are overwhelming.'

The trip was an eye-opener. Despite touring the globe for decades, Midler now realises she actually saw very little. 'Nothing. I saw the inside of every hotel, a studio, and sound stages... but didn't see anything.'

It sounds as though Midler quite fancies spending her dotage on a grown-up's gap year, roaming the globe. So a safe bet would be to snap up a ticket now, and catch The Divine Miss M while you still can. ■

◆ *It's The Girls! by Bette Midler is out now on Warner Bros.*

◆ *The Bette Midler: Divine Intervention UK tour runs until 19 July. For tickets: 0333-321 9999, www.ticketmaster.co.uk*

JONATHAN PUSHNIK

TOP 5 BETTE MIDLER MOVIES

◆ Ruthless People (1986)



◆ Beaches (1988)



◆ Big Business (1988)



◆ Hocus Pocus (1993)



◆ The First Wives Club (1996)

Fed Up With Always Having Weight Problems?

How many times have you been determined to lose weight, promising yourself that you are going to stick to a diet, only to find that before you know it, you have blown it, yet again!


Rachel Ricketts, Weight Loss Consultant

Are you struggling with any of the following?

- Can't stop eating foods that cause you to put on weight.
- Overeating, secret eating, too much alcohol, or constantly thinking about food.

If you are having difficulty in understanding why you cannot get in control of your unwanted eating habits, read on.

Can't get out of the trap of bad eating habits?

High carbohydrate foods, sugar-rich foods or certain drinks (alcohol, fruit juices, fizzy drinks etc.) can cause a high increase in blood sugar levels which is then followed by a crash in blood sugar levels. This can leave you feeling irritable, hungry, having cravings for sugar, carbohydrates, fizzy drinks and alcohol.

No willpower

When blood sugar levels go too low, it's all too easy for willpower to go flying out of the window, which so often leads to eating sugar and carbohydrates all over again! This pattern can repeat itself for days, weeks, months or even years, leading to weight gain, bad health, despair and low self-esteem.

Get in control of your unwanted eating habits

One of the key factors of Rachel Ricketts' highly successful Metabolic Weight Loss Programme is helping with unwanted eating habits. With an expected average weight loss of 7-14 lbs a month, an easy to follow programme and one-to-one support, hundreds of handwritten testimonials show just how effective the programme is.



Better health!

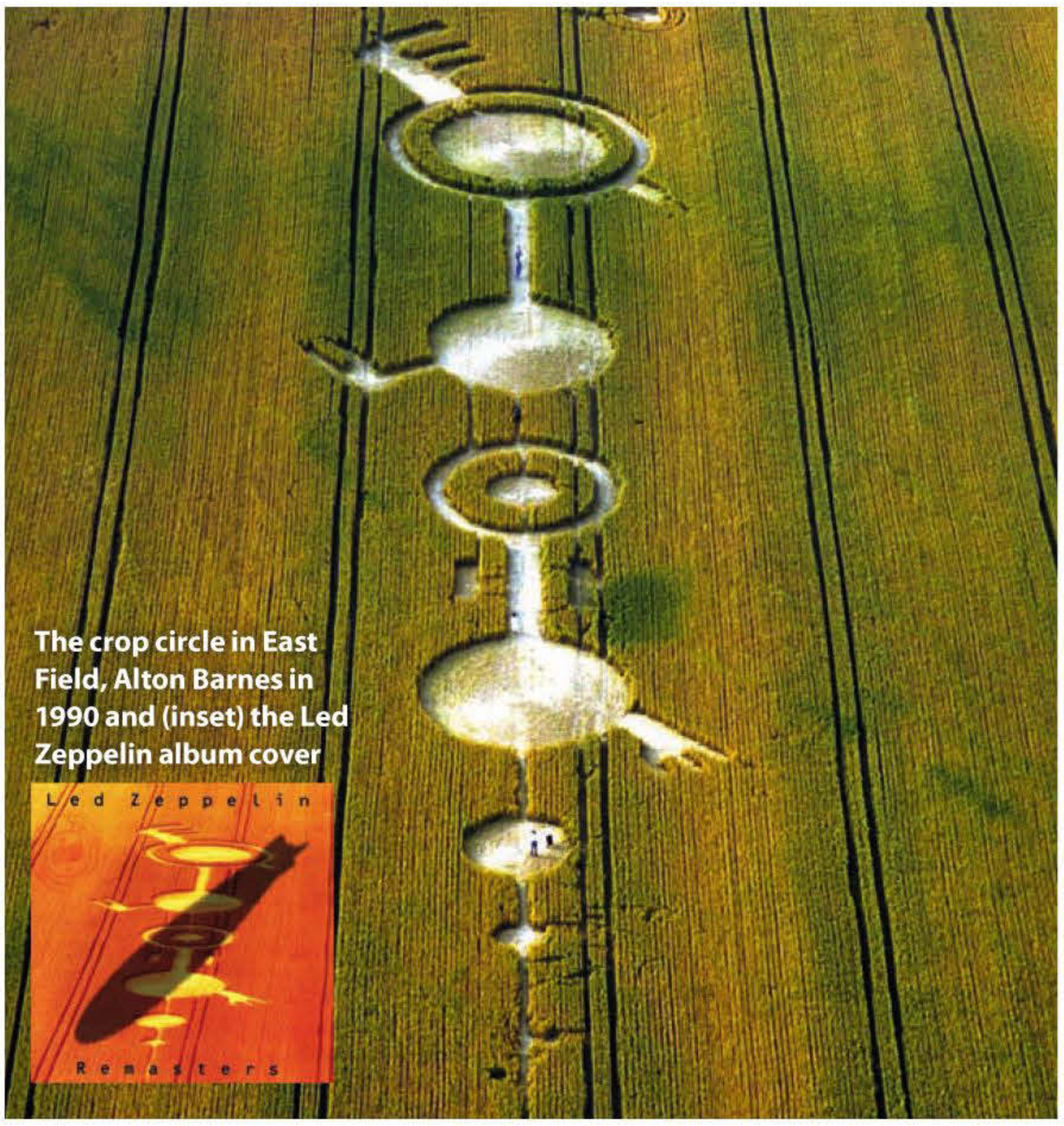
Time after time, clients report how delighted they are with their health improvements having lost weight with the Metabolic Weight Loss Programme.

"My Doctor is thrilled to bits! He is very happy with my blood pressure coming down and I am no longer Diabetic Type 2. He told me, 'You are my slimmer of the year!'"
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The crop circle in East Field, Alton Barnes in 1990 and (inset) the Led Zeppelin album cover

ALIENS OR ART FAKERY?

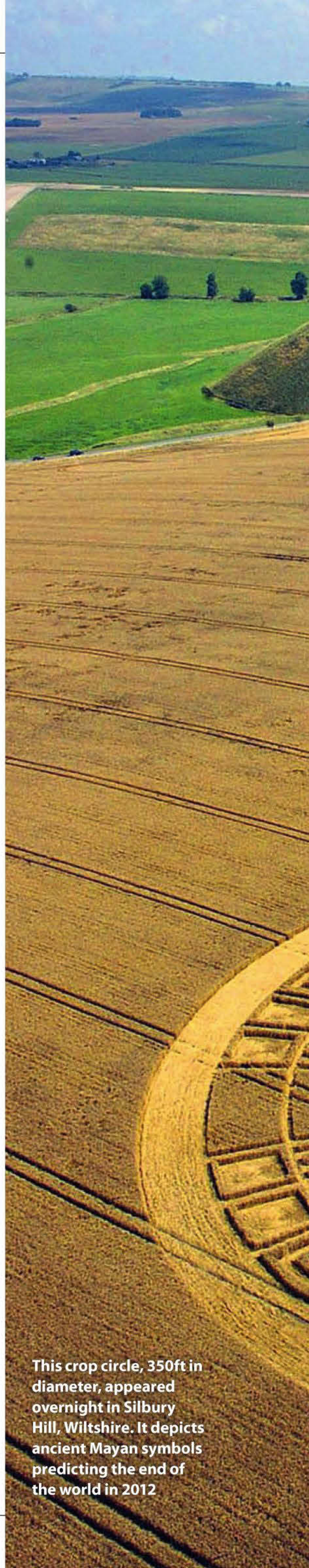
A new exhibition celebrates that very English phenomenon – the crop circle. Sam Taylor remembers making one

Depending on who you listen to, crop circles have been appearing in grain fields in the English countryside for either hundreds of years or since 12 July 1990 when a 600ft-long pictogram appeared overnight in the East Field, Alton Barnes, in Wiltshire.

Intricate, complex, with a series of symbols that may or may not have been some sort of code, what is undeniable is that it was this one that caught the public's imagination and moved what was a subculture of secret 'croppie' watchers into the mainstream. It was also the one that Led Zeppelin chose to reappropriate for an album cover.

Twenty five years on, a new multimedia exhibition is about to open, featuring images and information about this most English phenomenon. Glorious photographs of some of the most complex and intricate circles will be on show, along with visitor interactive maps and talks about the theory of where they come from. And here's the rub. The real question: Where *do* they come from?

I once made a crop circle. Not alone (that would be impossible), but with the aid of a friend and two avant-garde artists who still wish to remain nameless. It was 1999 and we paid a farmer to cover the cost of any losses before setting off in the middle of the night, aided by a full moon and several 3ft-long planks of wood with rope 'handles' attached to each end. The artistic duo had previously mapped out an intricate design and in this field, we ▷



This crop circle, 350ft in diameter, appeared overnight in Silbury Hill, Wiltshire. It depicts ancient Mayan symbols predicting the end of the world in 2012

'The new Crop Circle Access Pass Scheme will now make farmers automatically eligible for compensation, raised by visitors' donations'



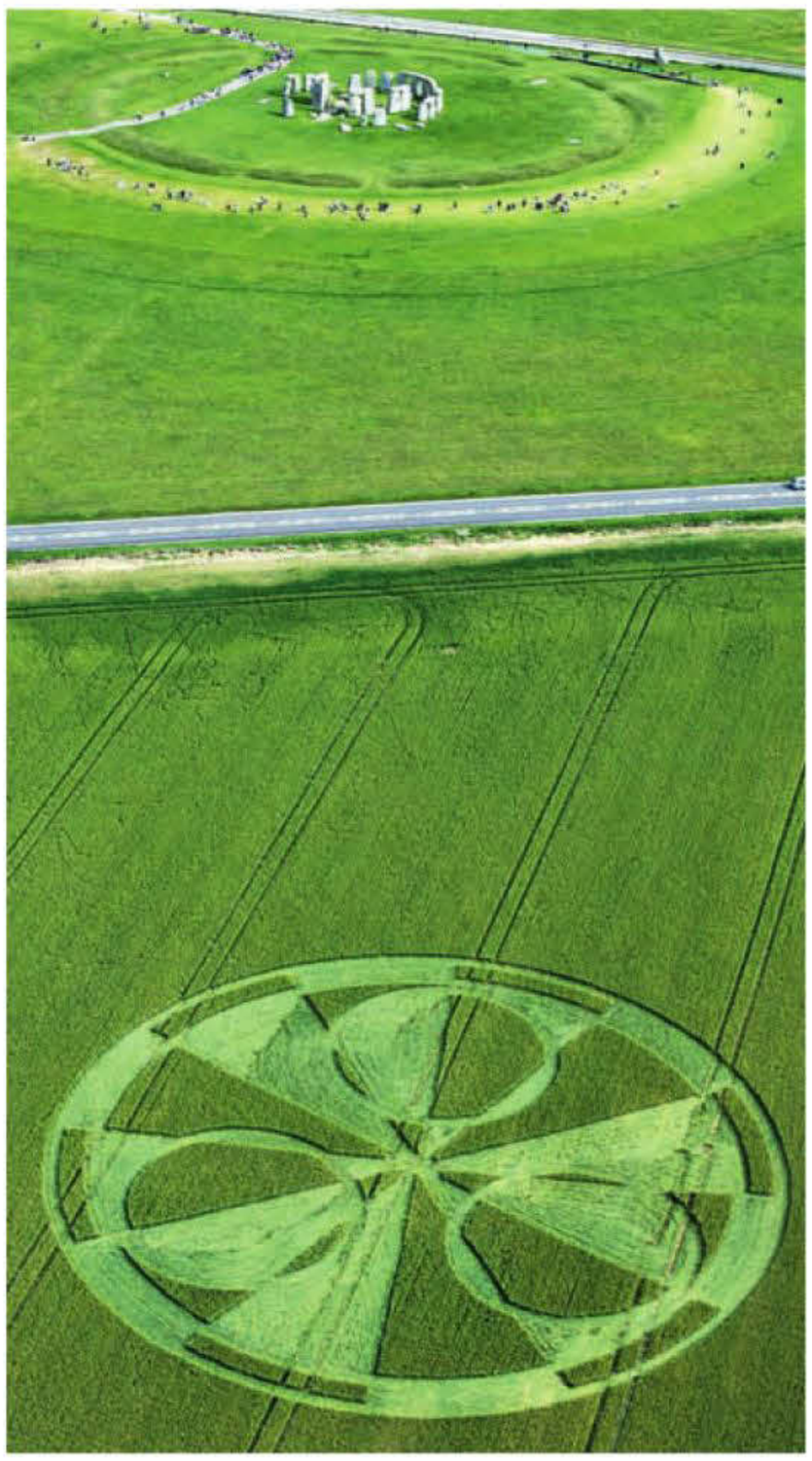
A crop circle in Marton, Wiltshire, in 2009







Above, from left: Stonehenge, July 2002; Barbury Castle, June 2008; Cherhill White Horse, with crop circle. Below: Stonehenge, July 2011



set about pressing it into the grain by foot, just on the rise to Avebury.

It was impossible to see what it looked like until we returned the next morning to view our handiwork. It was impressive – I can take no real credit for that – but also startling to see the crowds who had already gathered at the farmer's gate.

This was when the internet and social media were in their infancy, so most of these visitors had heard by word of mouth, through someone at their B&B, or the publican at the crop-pie's pub where bulletins of the latest circles were posted almost hourly. At the heart of the season, it is estimated that there can be upwards of 100 circles over the summer – most of them centred around Wiltshire.

Initially, the farmers were as intrigued as the visitors, with stories, handed down through recent generations according to Monique Klinkenbergh, the curator of the exhibition, with many farmers taking the opportunity to place 'donation' boxes at the gates to their fields – the farmer I worked with did this and gave the money to the National Trust. But as their popularity grew, so did the toll on the farming communities, with some farmers starting to cut or deface crop circles to protect their crops and their privacy.

In a bid to keep all parties happy (crop circles bring in thousands of visitors), the exhibition will also herald the launch of the Crop Circle Access Pass Scheme, an initiative set up with local MP Claire Perry, the NFU, the Wiltshire Constabulary and crop-circle researchers.

The Crop Circle Access Pass Scheme will allow English farmers that have crop circles on their land and who make them accessible to the public, to be automatically eligible for compensation raised by visitor and supporter donations. This means that future generations will be able to stare in wonder and ask: How did they get there? In my case, I knew the answer. It was me, I said repeatedly to the visitors staring at the one I had made the night before. But they didn't all believe me. You just think it was you, one man said. 'Aliens visited you in the middle of the night and told you to say that.' And who knows – maybe he was right. ■

◆ *An Era Of Crop Circles (11 July to 28 August), St Peter's Church, High Street, Marlborough, Wiltshire: 01672-511453, www.stpetersmarlborough.com – for further information on the Farmers' Crop Circle Reimbursement Fund: www.cropcircleaccess.com*

◆ *For holiday accommodation in Wiltshire, see our Classifieds section.*

REX FEATURES; ANNEMIEKE WITTEVEEN; ANDREAS MULLER; LUCY PRINGLE

HIM ON THE FARM

by Robin Page

Dame Miriam Rothschild was a marvellous lady: a naturalist, a scientist and a conservationist with an independent mind and imagination. As you travel along Britain's motorways enjoying some of the wild flowers growing in the verges, you're benefiting from one of her ideas – to develop seed mixtures to restore flowering edges to our highways and byways.

I was thinking of her the other evening as I looked at one of my hay meadows. Miriam died in January 2005; the message came through while Lulu and I were on our honeymoon in Kenya. I am not ashamed to say that I cried. I was fortunate to get some of her last hay-meadow seed mixtures and planted about five acres next to a far more modest grass field. This year Miriam's mixture is a picture of grasses and wild flowers, butterflies and bees – what a splendid living memorial to a wonderful lady.

There is just one problem: the field has been invaded by ragwort. The 'weed' with a bright-yellow flower looks fine – but if cut and accidentally included in a hay crop it can kill the horses or cattle that eat it. And this is a problem – Miriam's seed mixture was a traditional hay-meadow mixture; it was not a 'wild flower' mix. Farmers do not grow wild flowers as a crop – they grow a mixture of grasses and wild flowers to produce hay; these fields are hay meadows. To call them wild-flower meadows shows how many people have become detached from nature and from farming.

'You assume you'll always see extended family members – yet this is a mistake'

These beautiful fields provide far more than hay; they provide excellent habitats for butterflies and bees, harvest mice, hares and many more species. They also make ideal hunting grounds for kestrels and barn owls. But here comes the rub. Many farmers seem to have become detached from nature, too, and see grass simply as a crop, with a desire for efficiency and profit resulting in the grass being cut several times a year for silage – starting in April and often going through to October. This means no flowers, no bees, no butterflies and no barn owls, etc.

What a price to pay for efficiency. And why do they do this? Because the price of milk and meat is so low in the supermarkets – and tell me, where do you buy your milk and meat?



HER INDOORS

by Mary Killen

In my 20s I had individual friendships with two sisters. One day I was talking about one to the other when she asked jealously, 'How come you've seen my sister and I haven't?'

'Well, what's to stop you seeing her?' I replied.

'I just never make arrangements to see her, because at the back of my mind I always assume I'll see her at home. And yet we both moved out of home five years ago.'

The conversation came back to haunt me this week. It's not just your immediate family members that you see at home, due to being part of the same household – it's your cousins as well, and your aunts and uncles. Having got used to your parents orchestrating these meetings from the moment you are born, you become complacent and assume you will always see these extended family members in some sort of seasonal context. Yet this is a mistake, because, after you grow up and leave home, you probably won't unless it is you who makes the effort.

I had a very witty aunt, for example, who I hadn't seen for years – mainly because she didn't live near me, and also because I had the impression that, since being widowed, she was constantly on back-to-back cruises. But I only remembered that Peggy was witty when I recently read some of her old letters. My sister, who had carried on making an effort to see Peggy, confirmed that, yes indeed, she was witty, and also eccentric. At her local pub she always ordered a child's portion (as a budgetary measure) and even got away with ordering child's portions for her whole table of friends, as the publican liked her.

She sounded just up my street – moreover, I heard she had developed an uncanny physical similarity to our late mother. So I sharpened up my act and arranged to go and meet her, with my sister, on 5 July.

You can guess the rest. It was too late. Fortunately for Peggy she was a tip-top physical specimen… until the day of her death, when she just keeled over. But I am upset and I feel I've been a fool.

All I can do is recommend to readers not to be complacent and assume you'll see your extended family members in the natural course of events. You might not, so it's best to arrange it yourself.

The WRITE THINGS

Emily Brontë worked at a portable desk box and a tiny stool. These precious items tell us everything, reveals Victorian literature expert Deborah Lutz

Writing is usually a silent act. Maybe the scratching of a pen can be heard, or the tap of keys, or music in the background as a stimulus, but generally the writer sits alone in stillness. Some prefer writing in the hushed comfort of bed, like Edith Wharton, who tossed her finished sheets onto the floor. Proust worked in bed late at night, in a room made as quiet as possible with cork lining. Trollope, on the other hand, toiled on the train to his job, on a specially made tablet, which must have made for a noisy working environment. Emily Brontë crafted her poetry on snippets of ripped-off or scissored paper, as did Emily Dickinson, on odds and ends like envelope flaps. Charlotte Brontë did some literal cutting and pasting on manuscripts of her novels, and Jane Austen used pins. Elizabeth Barrett Browning would sometimes sew in revised text, using needle and thread. We can add these whispery sounds to the writer's soundscape.



Silent, also, are the writer's working implements, especially long after her death. We have her words of course, and, if we are lucky, sets of garrulous letters, memoirs and accounts from those who knew her. But those desks, pens and chairs sit cipher-like. What can we learn about Jane Austen and her work by studying her portable desk, for instance, with its leather-covered writing slope and its concealed drawers, opened with a hidden bolt?

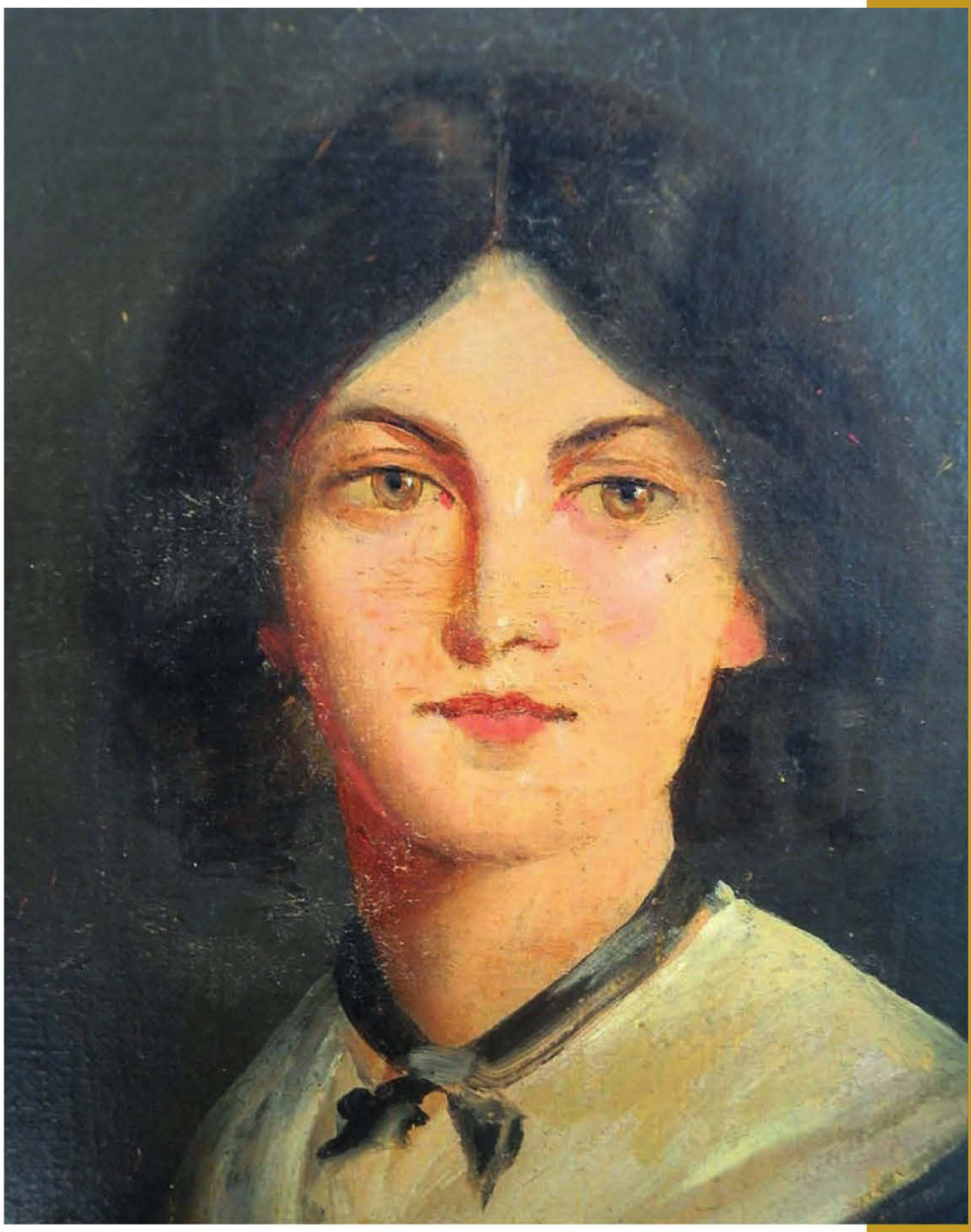
Emily Brontë is an especially vital case, given her famously secretive nature and the fact that so little of her writing outside of Wuthering Heights and her poetry survives. Yet she drew pictures of herself writing, or pausing from writing, on some of the sheets of paper on which she was working. From these and snippets of servants' gossip, we can reconstruct a few facts about her work habits. She wrote in her little bedroom or while at her domestic duties in the kitchen. She could be found scribbling at the parlour table with her sister Anne, and occasionally she wrote outside, near the house or out on a ramble on the moors.



Brontë often used her portable rosewood desk (which can be seen at the Brontë Parsonage Museum) either open on her lap or on a table, her sheet of paper resting on the ink-stained, purple-velvet writing slope. She called it her 'desk box', as in her 1841 diary, which begins: *'It is Friday evening, near 9 o'clock – wild rainy weather. I am seated in the dining-room, having just concluded tidying our desk boxes, writing this document.'*

Her ink bottle sat in a compartment in the upper-right-hand corner, and in the storage spaces underneath the slope she kept stationery, envelope seals, metal nibs, wooden pens, blotting paper with ink stains, fragments of lace, an ivory seal and other writing miscellanea. Speculation that Brontë had begun a second novel when she died rests largely on a letter and an envelope found in this desk. Addressed to Ellis Bell (Emily's pen name) and from her publisher Thomas Cautley Newby, the 15 February 1848 note mentions a second novel by Ellis then underway (although it is possible he was confusing Ellis with Anne Brontë, or Acton Bell, who was then writing her second novel). When these desks were folded they could be locked, and it is likely that Brontë took the key with her.

Another of Brontë's tools was a tiny, wooden-slatted stool. A Brontë servant reported seeing her carry it outside to perch on to write. On a one-page diary (which she called a 'diary paper'), she has drawn herself resting on this low seat in her upstairs bedroom, her dog Keeper stretched out on the floor near her. Flossy, Anne's spaniel, is sleeping on the bed. Brontë, in contrast, is active, bent over her open writing desk settled on her lap, clearly absorbed in filling her sheet. Unlike the dogs, Brontë doesn't look



'One wonders if Brontë needed this austerity in her work in order for her creativity to thrive'

Left: A mid 19th-century portrait of Emily Brontë
Below: The portable rosewood desk lined in purple velvet that Emily referred to as her 'desk box'
Opposite page: Emily would carry this tiny wooden-slatted stool outside and perch on it to write
Inset: A family portrait of Charlotte, Emily, Bramwell and Anne

comfortable, especially for doing such close work as writing in the miniature hand she used for composing her poetry on the tiny slips of paper she favoured. It feels like a careful balancing act: body on stool, desk on lap, paper on desk, pen on paper. One wonders if Brontë needed this austerity in her work in order for her creativity to thrive, for her to invent the characters in Wuthering Heights, who are like emanations from the wind-torn landscape, emerging emotionally stunted and violent like the land that bred them. Much of her poetry also tells of a harsh world, where artistic souls languish in prisons and chains or moon over the graves of their beloveds, who died in their prime.

Yet, notwithstanding desk and stool, with Brontë it is absence more than presence that we find. The manuscript of Wuthering Heights is missing, along with her childhood writings about the imaginary land of Gondal (except for a group of poems about its people that survived). And who knows what else was once there and is now gone for good? Brontë remains one of our most silent writers. ■

◆ *The Brontë Cabinet: Three Lives In Nine Objects, by Deborah Lutz (WW Norton & Company, £17.99).*
◆ *The Brontë Society & Brontë Parsonage Museum: 01535-642323, www.bronte.org.uk*



WRITER PICTURES; THE BRONTE SOCIETY; MARY EVANS

The Lady invites you to our forthcoming

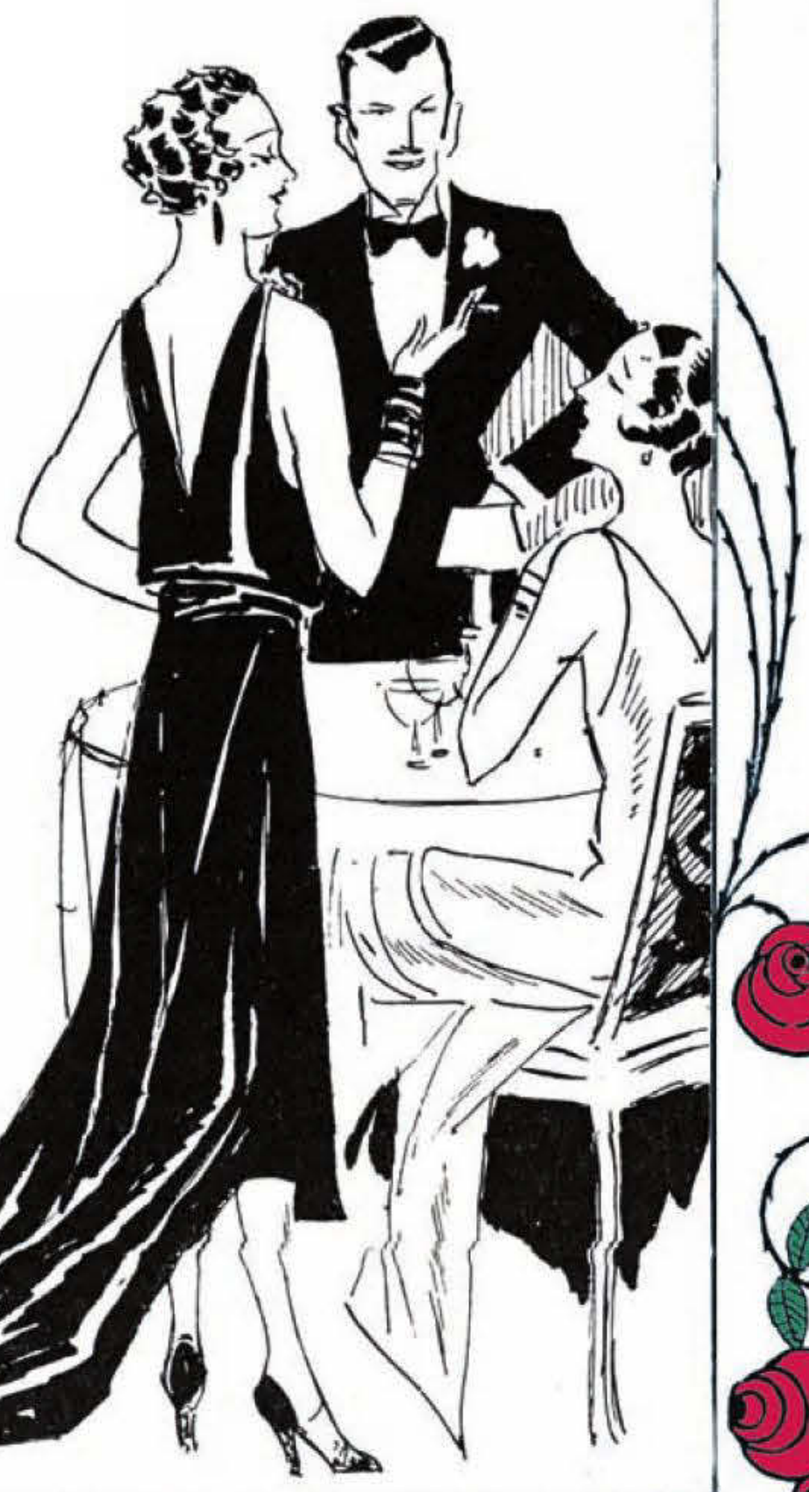
Literary Lunches

We are delighted to welcome you to *The Lady*'s remaining Literary Lunches in 2015. Enjoy a drinks reception followed by a three-course luncheon with talks by compelling authors, mingle with new-found friends and come away laden with signed books in your very own *The Lady* goody bag. Details of future speakers will appear in forthcoming issues of *The Lady*.

The events will take place in the beautiful surroundings of the Caledonian Club in London's historic Belgravia. Our previous lunches have been extremely popular and have sold out quickly, so book your tickets now to secure your place.

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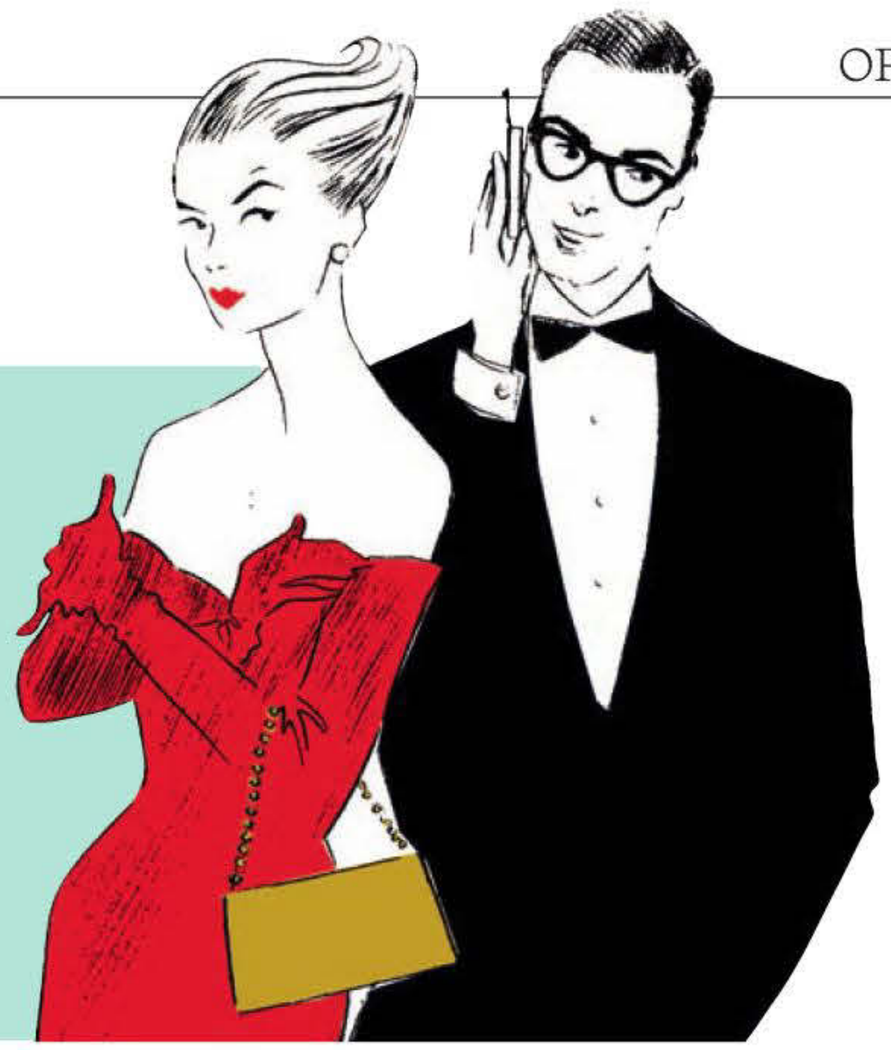


HOW TO BOOK

Tickets cost £90 and include a drinks reception, a three-course lunch, including half a bottle of wine, tea and coffee, talks by our guests and signed copies of each author's featured book. The receptions are held at The Caledonian Club, 9A Halkin Street, London SW1X 7DR.
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THE LADY GUIDE TO Modern manners

Should we be nice to people we don't like or can we show a disagreeable side? A courteous Thomas Blaikie explains

Dear Thomas,
If I don't like someone I always feel guilty. To compensate I'm incredibly nice to them and before I know it, they think I'm their best friend. What shall I do?
Claire Mulholland, Tring

Dear Claire,
What an intriguing problem and one I'm sure many of us are familiar with. Who does not wish to be nice, even or perhaps especially to those we dislike? How can it be wrong to conceal disagreeable feelings?

We also perhaps seek to defend ourselves against the retaliation that would be inevitable if our hostility were to become known. For overt antagonism will always be met with the same. But I'm curious about this business of 'liking' people or not. Is this really such a fixed thing? Even our closest friends we don't always like. There are waves of annoyance, followed by others of pleasure and appreciation. Nobody, in truth, is wholly likeable. Or wholly unlikeable on the whole.

It could be that the source of your guilt is that you tend to take against people in a rather narrow, judgemental way. Some enjoy making an unwholesome sport of condemning their fellow human beings rather as others relish writing withering reviews of harmless little hospitality outfits on TripAdvisor. Really they're just trying to make themselves feel safe but they're unlikely to succeed. It's a dangerous game. Guilt is certainly one upshot. Equally, since you say that the people you dislike respond warmly to you being nice to them, it could be that they've become more likeable in the sunshine of your niceness. But you've just not noticed. You're too wedded to the idea that you don't like them.

Devastatingly, all of the above might be entirely wrong. You really don't like them – although 'like' might be the wrong word. But the mystery remains as to why you feel compelled to be nice. Perhaps you feel that you must like everyone and are guilty that you can't. You're burdening yourself. Get rid of the idea of liking or disliking and think instead of sympathy, common interests, a shared sense of humour or whatever it is that allows us to get on with some and not others.

It's not a crime to feel no bond of friendship with certain individuals but it hasn't got anything to do with liking or not liking them. Furthermore, some of us want everyone to like us so the urge to be nice to people we don't like is really a reflection of that. A feeling of dislike for someone else provokes a fear that we might not be liked ourselves – that the other person might feel exactly the same, in other words. So we try to short-circuit our anxieties by being nice.



Please send your questions to thomas.blaikie@lady.co.uk or write to him at The Lady, 39-40 Bedford Street, London WC2E 9ER

ILLUSTRATION TAKEN FROM BLAIKIE'S GUIDE TO MODERN MANNERS (FOURTH ESTATE, £10)

'Get rid of the idea of liking or disliking; think of what allows us to get on with some and not others'

WHAT TO DO ABOUT... UNWANTED PRESENTS

On her state visit to Germany last month, the Queen was presented with an Expressionist-type painting of herself as a small girl sitting on a blue horse held by her father. The Queen said, 'That's a funny colour for a horse.' Then she peered at it some more. 'Is that supposed to be my father?' she inquired of the President of Germany. 'Don't you recognise him?' President Gauck asked. 'No,' said the Queen.

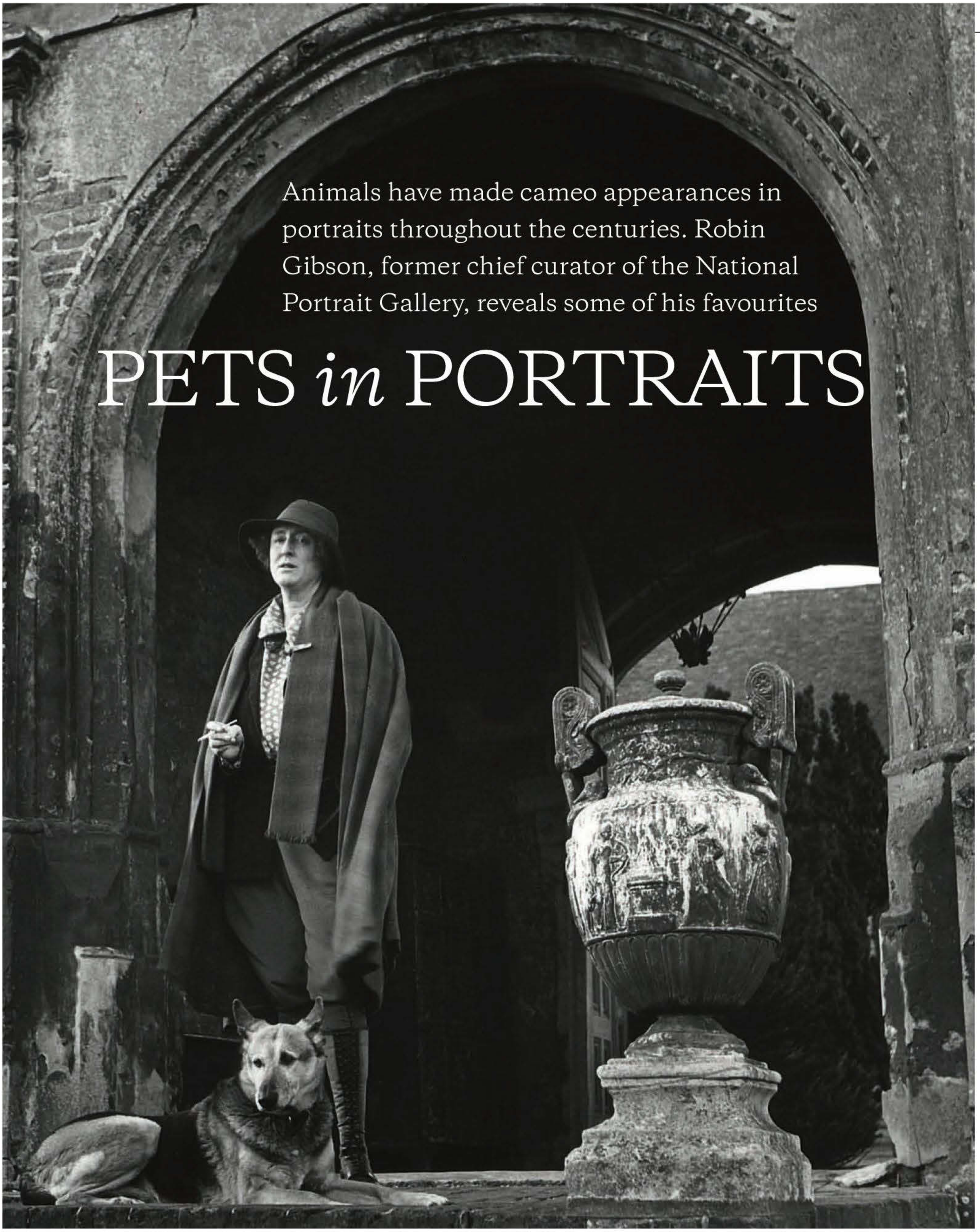
On the face of it, she was quite rude. In some respects older people who are not the Queen can get away with this kind of thing more easily. But the exchange of presents on state visits is a formality not quite parallel with what happens in real life.

You could say that the Queen was cutting through a lot of stuffiness in a delightful way. And, wasn't it rather a blunder to think of giving her such a thing anyway?

I do wonder whether, following the Queen's example, more of us should not adopt this more direct approach when receiving a present. Refreshing honesty cutting through the shallow mask of manners. What a conundrum for the etiquette expert!

Animals have made cameo appearances in portraits throughout the centuries. Robin Gibson, former chief curator of the National Portrait Gallery, reveals some of his favourites

PETS *in* PORTRAITS



VITA SACKVILLE-WEST AND MARTHA John Gay, 1948

Daughter of Lord Sackville and brought up at Knole, one of the largest country houses in England, the writer Vita Sackville-West is better known for her unconventional marriage to the diplomat Sir Harold Nicolson and for the creation of the garden at Sissinghurst.

The dignified and monumental combination of the statuesque figure, the ancient arch and urn and the noble dog conceals a hidden tragedy, for Martha, the German shepherd dog, was already dying. Vita's companion of 13 years, later that year he had suffered a heart attack.

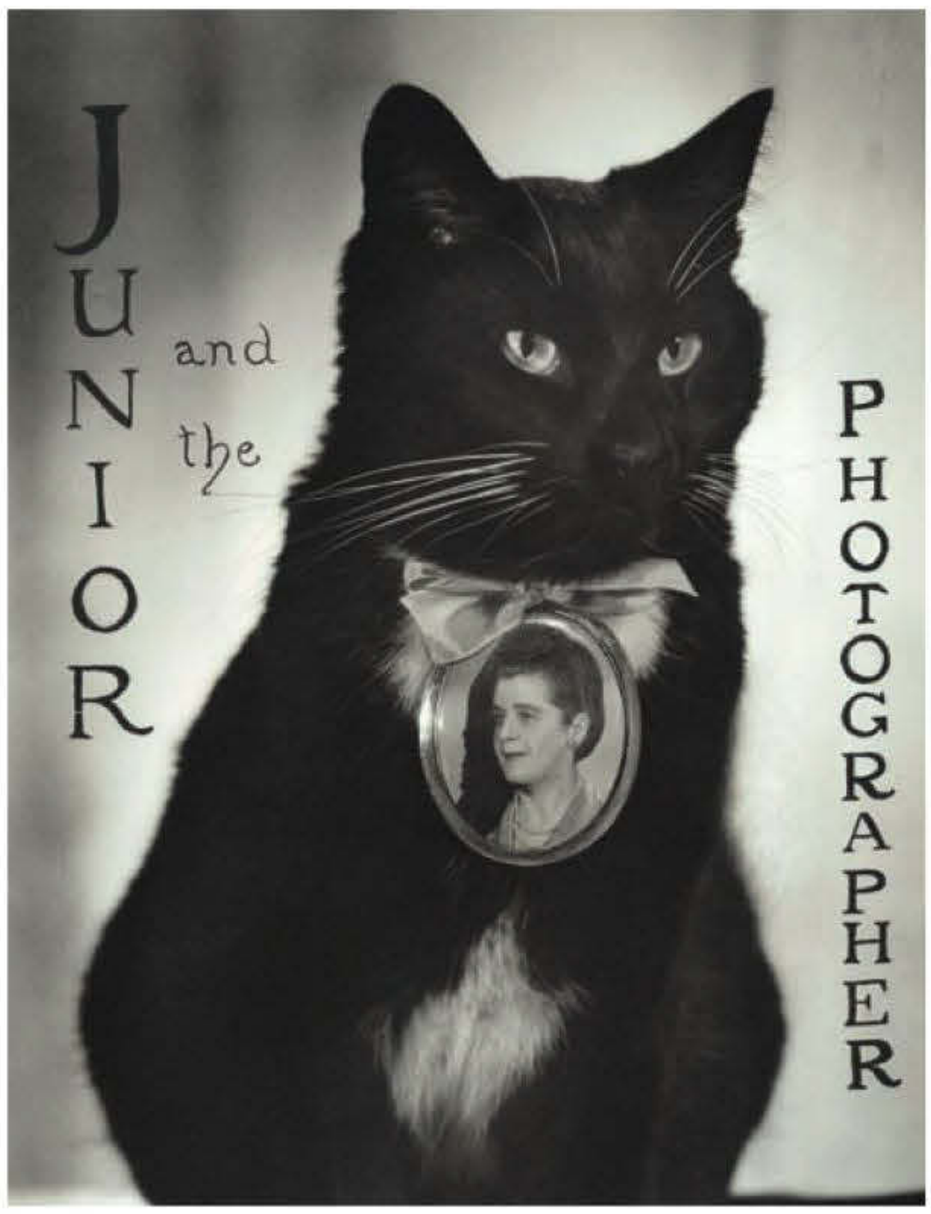
Harold had arrived to 'find Viti [*sic*] pacing by the lake in an agony of tears'.



THE DUKE AND DUCHESS OF WINDSOR WITH DIZZY

Dorothy Wilding, 1955

Dizzy (short for Disraeli) was the first of nine Windsor pugs and joined the Duke and Duchess's household in France soon after their return from wartime governorship of the Bahamas in 1945. They took to pugs with something of an obsession. In the sale catalogue of the Windsors' effects were several silver-plated dog bowls, engraved collars, pug bed linen and a whole host of 'puggiana', including paintings and Meissen figurines. This photograph was taken in Dorothy Wilding's studio in New York, where the Windsors had an apartment and where their pugs were often proudly paraded in national dog shows.



ANNA PAVLOVA WITH JACK

Lafayette, 1927

Russian prima ballerina Anna Pavlova's most famous solo was The Dying Swan, and an admirer presented her with a pair of swans, Jack and his mate, who arrived soon after she moved in to her house, Ivy House, in 1913, with its specially enlarged lake. Jack became quite tame and his family increased rapidly from two to eight… [Pavlova] would take him on her knees and twine his neck around hers and Jack would take it all without the slightest protest. ▷

MADAME YEVONDE

Self-portrait, *c.* 1958

Madame Yevonde was one of the most original figures in British photography. Her pioneering work with colour photography in the 1930s was extremely influential and this entertaining self-portrait is typical of her always inventive approach and surely indicative of the importance cats played in her life. Her cats seemed to increasingly fill the void left by her husband's death and they had a free run of her studio. Whiskey wormed his way into several of her society portraits in the 1930s, and it was probably he who escaped with her to safety seconds before a direct hit on her Berkeley Square studio during the Blitz. Junior also appears in other photographs. On the reverse of the mount, Mme Yevonde has inscribed: 'JUNIOR – Winner of the 1958 Good Conduct Prize offered by the Cats Protection League for the most distinguished cat. He was aged 18 when he disappeared. He is wearing a very early photograph of the photographer.'



AGATHA CHRISTIE

Unidentified press photographer, 1920

Christie very clearly wanted her canine companion in the picture. This is a photograph of the novelist and *her* dog, not of her and *a* dog. This is no surprise. She had loved dogs from an early age, kept them all her life and described very possibly the cheeky chap in this image, a wire-haired terrier called Peter, as 'a dog in a thousand'. She even dedicated one of her 66 novels to him. And it's this clear connection, her obvious affinity with her dog, that makes this portrait successful.



ELLEN TERRY

William Henry Grove, 1889

Ellen Terry owned several fox terriers, Fussie was her first and she had acquired him from the famous jockey Fred Archer in the mid-1880s and, since he was the first fox terrier she had owned, it may reasonably be assumed to be one of the two being tempted with titbits by his mistress, apparently on a stage set. The other is probably Drummy or Bossy. She shared Fussie with her acting partner Henry Irving, and he drank champagne from 'ladies fingers', and had his own chair in Irving's dressing room.

KING EDWARD VII

Thomas Heinrick Voigt, *c.* 1910

Though better remembered for a number of famous mistresses, one of the most constant and faithful companions of Edward VII's last years was a small terrier called Caesar. As can be seen from the numerous retouchings around the dog, the photograph is in fact a fake, in which Caesar, who wore a collar inscribed 'I am Caesar, the King's dog', was reunited with his master and the result issued as a postcard by an enterprising German photographer after the King's death in 1910.

Caesar shot to fame at the King's funeral when he was delegated by Queen Alexandra to follow the coffin in the procession from Westminster Hall on its way to Windsor.

◆ *Pets In Portraits, by Robin Gibson (National Portrait Gallery, £10).*



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MELLOW YELLOW

Painterly prints, graphic stripes and feminine florals in the sunniest colour. By Juanita Coulson

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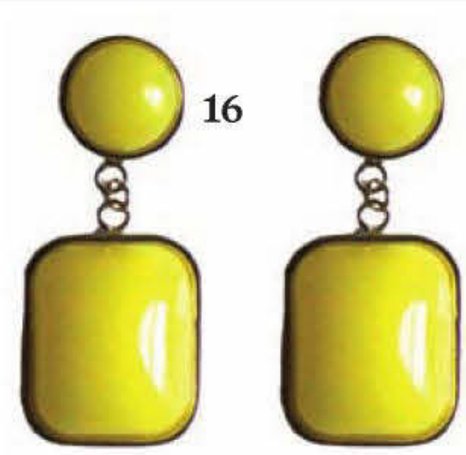
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THE LADY ARCHIVE



MAKE A HAPPY HOME



We have to be able to laugh at ourselves. The only consequence you face with humour is that it will make your design approachable and fun. It's the little gestures that make a home enjoyable and memorable

Feel recharged and rejuvenated by organising your living space to suit you, says Amanda Talbot

After researching major living trends around the world I realised that, although there were different tribes of people taking various paths, they all had one goal: they wanted to be happy. For many years I have investigated how good and bad design can affect our emotions, so it suddenly became obvious that if all we really want in life is happiness, then surely design can play a vital role.

Over the years I have seen how buildings that are poorly designed can agitate and frustrate people and even prolong illness. So, surely ▷

Above: The one colour that most people seem to agree on is the Mr Happy of the colour world: yellow. The trick I have found to keep yellow a happy shade – and not one that gives you a migraine – is to contain it. For example, use it inside your cupboards, so that each time you open a door it's almost like a ray of sunshine escaping





Above: When it comes to colour, remember… Non-primary colours are more calming than primary. Blue is the most calming of the primaries, followed closely by light red. Too much of a good thing, including loud colours like yellow, orange and red, can cause too much negative visual stimulation. But being understimulated is just as harmful as being overstimulated, so always add another hue to neutrals. One colour can't provoke a mood: you need at least two to stimulate the senses

Above: Life is about surrounding ourselves with the things that fascinate us, drive us and make us feel alive. Your home should represent everything about you. The trick is not to store all these positive memories in cupboards, albums or drawers. Bring them out to tell a visual story

Right: Humans need a place they can call home. It is important to our sense of security, identity and belonging. Home is a place that centres us; a place from which we set out each morning and to which we return at night. For many, the sense of attachment is so strong that it becomes a part of their emotional identity





Above: Feeling overwhelmed? Getting rid of clutter gives you control over your environment. All of your objects should have a regular use, function or a happy memory attached. If they don't, throw them out. The rule is: bring one thing into your home; one thing must go

Below: We should swap the word 'dining' for something warmer, such as 'feasting'. If you said 'feasting table' you would instantly think of generosity, comfort and conversation. The feasting table should be one of the largest pieces of furniture in the home

creating spaces that are calming and soothing, which provoke confidence, security and creativity, could help us on the path to happiness. In my book I want to show you the possibilities for your life: at home, in the community and in our built environment. I am a firm believer that once you get your home right, it should make you feel recharged and rejuvenated. It should make you feel happy, you just have to learn how. Stick with it, because I know it could change your life. ■

◆ *Happy: Creating Joyous Living Spaces Through Design, by Amanda Talbot, with photography by Josef S Rosemann, is published by Murdoch Books, priced £25.*

'Creating spaces that are calming and soothing provokes confidence, security and happiness'



HOME HELP
by Hugh St Clair

Q I have resurfaced my stained cast-iron bath twice, but cracks soon appear and reveal the original brown marks again. A new cast-iron bath is very expensive, so I wondered if you could recommend an acrylic bath that would look acceptable in a historic cottage?
MW, by email

A Victorian Plumbing Company copies traditional cast-iron roll-top baths in double-skinned acrylic. Expect to pay around £400, rather than upwards of £900 for a cast-iron original.
◆ *0800-862 0878, www.victorianplumbing.co.uk*

Q I have a large slab of stone that has been sitting in my garden on top of a metal table. However, the table base is very rusty. I am worried that one day the rust will eat right through and the table will collapse. I would love to find cast-iron supports. Can you help?
CC-P, by email

A Vintage Industrial Metal Ltd has amassed a collection of cast-iron bases from old machinery and tables that will last forever if painted regularly. For a base to support a 1,800mm x 800mm table top, expect to pay around £1,000, plus VAT.
◆ *01692-541903, www.vintageindustrialmetal.co.uk*

Q A friend recently gave me a lovely painted pine chest of drawers that she kept in storage for years. However, I cannot fully open the drawers. What is the best way to loosen them so that they glide easily?
JF, by email

A If the drawers have warped and expanded in storage, try to pull them out from underneath on both sides, firmly but without tugging. Then sand round the drawers. In case it is the strip of wood on which the drawers slide that is the problem, lubricate this strip and the underside of the drawer with a candle or bar of soap to facilitate gliding.

Send your queries to the usual Bedford Street address or email hughstclair@googlemail.com

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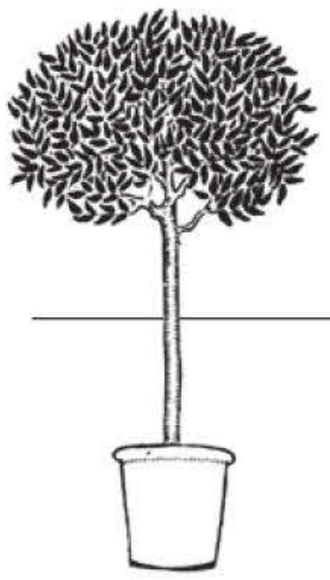
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GARDEN PLOTTING

by Sarah Langton-Lockton



The rose garden, with the Queen of Denmark Rose planted on the left, and the Apothecaries Rose on the right

In Jane's garden

Gardens played a key role in Jane Austen's novels. Our columnist visits glorious Chawton

For the last eight happy years of her life, from 1809 to 1817, Jane Austen lived in the village of Chawton, near Alton in Hampshire. The household consisted of Jane, her widowed mother, sister Cassandra and their friend Martha Lloyd. Their house was a comfortable, mellow brick cottage, extended and improved over the centuries, but thought to date back to the mid-1500s. The house was offered rent-free to them by Jane's brother Edward, who had been adopted by distant cousins, Thomas and Catherine Knight, and had inherited estates in Hampshire and Kent.

In his memoir of his aunt, James Edward Austen-Leigh described the garden: 'A high wooden fence and hornbeam hedge shut out the Winchester road... Trees were planted each side to form a shrubbery walk, carried round the enclosure, which gave sufficient space for ladies' exercise.' He also recalled 'a pleasant irregular mixture of hedgerow, and gravel walk, and orchard, and long grass for mowing'. Jane Austen wrote warmly and often of the garden at Chawton. In a letter to Cassandra dated 29 May 1811, she reported: 'Our young piony at the foot of the fir-tree has just blown and looks very handsome, and the whole of the shrubbery border will soon be very gay with pinks and sweet-williams, in addition to the columbines already in bloom. The syringas, too, are coming out.' There was also at Chawton in Jane Austen's day a large kitchen garden – she writes in the same letter of the likelihood of 'a great crop of Orleans plums but not many greengages'. The garden and orchard produced much of what they ate, and they kept chickens and turkeys and harvested honey from their bees. Jane's comfortable, settled years at Chawton Cottage were her most productive and fulfilling. She revised for publication the three manuscripts she had already written, wrote three more novels and started another. When she received copies of Pride And Prejudice, she wrote to Cassandra: '...I have got my own darling child from London'. After Jane's death, her mother and Cassandra stayed on there until the end of their lives. Later, part of the Chawton estate was sold. A local benefactor bought the house and garden, established the Jane Austen Memorial Trust and Jane Austen's House Museum opened in 1949.

Despite huge numbers of visitors (around 35,000 a year), the Museum retains its atmosphere and intimacy as a family home. Curator Mary Guyatt, whom I know from her time as curator at the Garden Museum, and Celia Simpson, head gardener for 16 years, gave me a hugely enjoyable guided tour. Celia, who trained at Merrist Wood and worked for five years in the heated greenhouses at Kew, officially gardens here for two-and-a-half days a week, but can often be spotted on her days off. I met her in her private domain, a part of the garden protected from the public by a wicket gate and a tall beech hedge. Here, Celia explained, she propagates plants from cuttings and seeds gathered from the garden. There are nursery beds with healthy rows of hebes, abelia, weigela, old clove pinks and Iceland poppies, cold frames and sheds and a small greenhouse with moss roses planted in front 'to make it blend in a bit'. Celia's pride and joy are her brick-built compost bins with wooden slats on front for ease of access. 'We get corking great plants in this garden, and weeds as well,' says Celia.

There are no records of the layout of the garden in Jane Austen's day. It would, says Celia, have been essentially a cottage garden with wild flowers informally threading their way through



Rosa Mundi



Product of the week

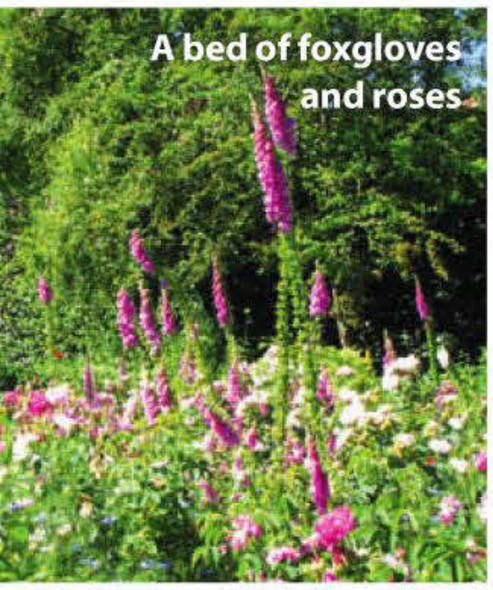


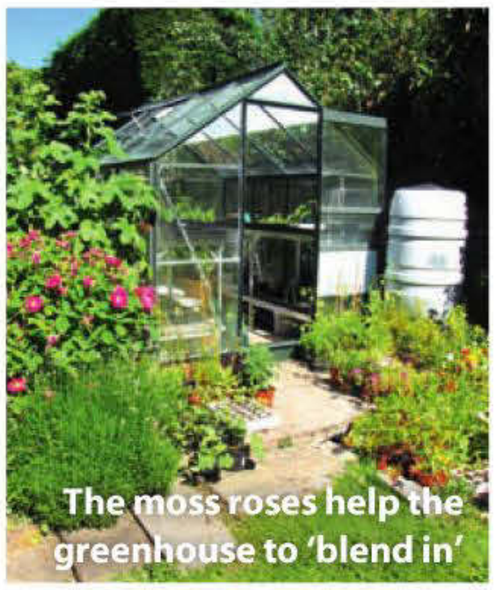
Twool twine essentials are handy dispensers with 15m of twine and an upcycled metal cutter – perfect to tuck into a pocket. Green, purple, rust or 'slinky minky'. £1.99: 01364-654467, www.twool.co.uk




Jane Austen's House Museum


The Gallica Rose


A bed of foxgloves and roses


The moss roses help the greenhouse to 'blend in'


The Apothecary's Rose

'There is a semi-wild shrubbery, and 350-year-old yew trees that would have been familiar to Jane'

beds and borders. This is a style that Celia magnificently perpetuates. In the new rose garden, for example, self-sown, dark purple honesty grows high above the glorious old roses, and teasels also cluster at the back of the border. Self-sown foxgloves and love-in-a-mist grow through 30 varieties of Alba, Centifolia, Gallica and furry-budded Moss roses, and a few modern English roses – purple-pink 'Wild Edric' and the deliciously scented white 'Winchester Cathedral'. Euphorbias grow to unparalleled heights and cross-pollinating aquilegias are everywhere.

Other joys for the visitor include a dye plant border, medicinal and culinary herbs and plants grown for the tiny, fragrant posies known as tussie-mussies. There is a semi-wild shrubbery, 350-year-old yews that would have been familiar to Jane Austen and an oak on the boundary, embraced by a circular seat, a descendant of a tree believed to have been planted by the author. A magnificent climbing rose, 'Blush Noisette', adorns the front of the house, which is filled with flowers cut from the garden. In the house, the tiny, 12-sided walnut writing table, in a modest room with a creaking door that warned of anyone's approach, provides a potent sense of Jane's abiding presence. In the garden too one wonders if she might return at any moment from a walk to Alton (she described herself as a 'desperate walker') to take a turn in her much-loved garden. House and garden are a joy to visit, both for those who love her books and for gardeners.

◆ *Jane Austen's House Museum: 01420-83262, www.jane-austens-house-museum.org.uk*

◆ **sarah.langton-lockton@lady.co.uk**

ISABEL SNOWDON

Plant of the week



The exquisite purple flower spikes of *Linaria purpurea* (toadflax) pop up joyfully wherever it can self-sow, including Jane Austen's garden. Widely available from plant stalls, garden centres or generous friends.

INDEPENDENT EATERS

Transform cooking solo into an exciting and creative experience, says Linda Tubby

Whether you are one of the fast-rising people living as one, renting in shared accommodation, or just occasionally catering solo, cooking for yourself is a most satisfying part of self-nurture. When thought and care are given to the process, from shopping for ingredients to preparing a meal, you can take great pleasure in eating the results. Feeding oneself can provide an experience that brings a more confident solo existence along with happiness and contentment. The ethos and the recipes in my book are an attempt to inspire just that. ▷



Tray-roasted vegetables and crispy parsley leaves with salsa salmoriglio
Opposite page: Seared tuna with quinoa, mangetout and cucumber salad

Most of us eat a reasonable diet and love to make food a considered part of a daily routine. But when stressed and hungry, we can panic-eat, usually turning to unhealthy foods. We swoop on what will fill us up quickly with the least possible work. So it's time to transform cooking solo into an exciting, creative experience so that meals aren't just viewed as quick fuel, grabbed to eat on the run, but a means to nurture yourself as many days of the week as you can manage.

Of course, the quantities can be doubled to serve two or three, depending on how many dishes you decide to cook. But in general, I cook and eat well but more fundamentally, I enjoy the entire process. I hope you will too. ■

◆ *Solo: Inspirational Cooking For One, by Linda Tubby, with photography by Ali Allen, is published by Kyle Books, priced £16.99.*



Ali's quick fix of ravioli, courgette and goat's cheese

SEARED TUNA WITH QUINOA, MANGETOUT AND CUCUMBER SALAD

Serves 1

◆ 60g tricolore quinoa
◆ 1 x 2.5cm thick piece of fresh tuna
◆ 3 tbsp olive oil
◆ juice of 1 orange
◆ 50g mangetout
◆ 8-10 French breakfast or mixed coloured radishes, sliced
◆ 10cm piece of cucumber, peeled in strips, deseeded and halved lengthways
◆ sea salt flakes and freshly ground black pepper
◆ violas or other edible flowers (optional), to serve

Rinse the quinoa and put in a pan with 150ml cold water. Bring to the boil then reduce the heat and cook for 8 mins. Remove from the heat and leave, covered, for 20 mins. Season with salt and pepper and tip into a dish to cool completely.

Coat the tuna in 1 tsp of olive oil and season with salt and pepper.

Put the remaining oil in a bowl and whisk in the orange juice and season.

Cook the mangetout in salted boiling water for 2 mins, drain in a colander and refresh in cold water. Pile a few together at a time and slice into 3 lengthways. Put them in a serving dish with the quinoa, radishes and cucumber and pour over the orange dressing.

Heat a ridged grill pan over a high heat until just smoking, reduce the heat and sear the tuna for 2 mins on the first side and 1 min on the other for rare or cook to your liking. Remove and let the tuna rest on a plate for 5 mins before slicing and laying on top of the salad.

To serve, scatter with a few violas or other edible flowers.

TRAY-ROASTED VEGETABLES AND CRISPY PARSLEY LEAVES WITH SALSA SALMORIGLIO

Serves 1

◆ 250g piece celeriac (half a small root), cut into 10 wedges
◆ 1 fennel bulb, cut into 6 lengthways
◆ 1 red pepper, deseeded and cut into 10 pieces
◆ 2-3 small red or pink onions, halved
◆ 1 pale green baton courgette, cut into 4 lengthways
◆ 1 garlic clove, sliced
◆ 2 tbsp olive oil
◆ pink Himalayan salt crystals and freshly ground black pepper
◆ about 10 flat-leaf parsley leaves
◆ 12 cherry tomatoes on the vine

For the salsa salmoriglio

◆ 4 tbsp extra virgin olive oil
◆ juice of ½ lemon
◆ 2 garlic cloves, finely chopped
◆ about 10g flat-leaf parsley
◆ 3 sprigs marjoram or oregano
◆ ½ tsp pink Himalayan salt crystals, roughly crushed
◆ ¼ tsp freshly ground black pepper

To make the salsa salmoriglio, put the oil and lemon juice in a bowl, whisk in 2 tbsp water and add the garlic. Chop the parsley and marjoram (or oregano) together and add to the bowl with the salt and pepper.

Preheat the oven to 220C/ gas mark 7.

In a pan of boiling water, blanch the celeriac for a minute and leave to drain in a colander. Put the remaining prepared vegetables (except the parsley and tomatoes) in a large, shallow roasting tin, add the oil and seasoning with the celeriac and toss together then lay the veggies out so that they don't overlap.

Roast for 25-30 mins, adding the parsley and tomatoes for the last 5 mins. (It helps if you open the oven door to let the steam escape from time to time during roasting so the vegetables don't steam.) Serve with the salsa salmoriglio.

ALI'S QUICK FIX OF RAVIOLI, COURGETTE AND GOAT'S CHEESE

Serves 1

◆ 125g good-quality pumpkin-stuffed ravioli or filled pasta of choice
◆ 1-2 courgettes, about 175g (in green and yellow if available), shaved with a vegetable peeler into ribbons
◆ 4 tsp soft goat's cheese
◆ extra virgin olive oil, to serve
◆ freshly ground black pepper, to serve
◆ pinch of pul biber pepper flakes, to serve

Bring a pan of salted water to the boil and add the pasta. Cook for 5 mins (don't over-boil them as they tend to split) or according to the packet instructions. When they are just about done, add the courgette ribbons for the last 20 seconds. Drain and put in a warmed bowl, dot with the spoons of goat's cheese, add a good slick of extra virgin olive oil, some pepper and the pinch of pul biber.

Eat while hot.






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St Mawes Retreats

...AND TO DRINK? *by Henry Jeffreys*



This week: **Cider**

I tried a drink recently that, had I not known it was cider, I am not sure I would have been able to tell it apart from a good sparkling wine. It's made by a man called James Lane at a little farm in Haslemere, Surrey, called Gospel Green. He's been making it by hand since 1990 using a 19th-century cider press to extract the juice and then traditional champagne techniques to make the wine sparkle.

Originally James had to sell his cider at village fetes but now he's built such a reputation that he has no trouble flogging his entire production of 9,500 bottles. Hurry because the new vintage won't last long. If I ever get married again, I know what I would serve at the reception.

Gospel Green Sussex Cyder 2013, £8.99 (75cl): www.quaffwine.com
There are notes of brown sugar and apples on the nose. In the mouth it's lemony with the most refined little bubbles. It's lean but quite extraordinarily drinkable.

Bhai Apple Cider, £1.75 (330ml): www.worldofzing.com
Another one that's very wine-like. It's made by Aspall in Suffolk from apples grown in the foothills of the Himalayas. It's a bit like Aspall's Suffolk cider but sweeter and appropriately enough there's a spicy note here, too.

Arundel Brewery Sussex Cyder, £2.95 (50cl): www.arundelbrewery.co.uk
This is richly flavoured with notes of brown sugar and cooked apples. There's a little tannin here, too. It's only available from their website and shop but they do a great range of beer as well so it's worth stocking up (available from the end of this month).

Planetbee Dry Cider, £2.40 (33cl), www.oddbins.com
There's a little bit of scrumpy-esque funk here and some tannic bite but it is balanced with plenty of fruit and a little sweetness so that it won't frighten anyone.

THE GLOBETROTTER

by Wendy Gomersall

These holiday homes offer plenty of room for family and friends

HAPPY HERTS

The Wow House Company offers Pelham House, a modern country house set in four acres of grounds near Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire and within easy reach of London for sightseeing or a show. With seven bedrooms sleeping 14, the property also has a large heated indoor pool with sauna, a cinema/snug, games room and terrace with barbecue area and outside bar. Nearby, visit Hanbury Manor for a spa day or a round of golf, or Cambridge is just a 30-minute drive.

◆ *One week costs from £5,995 (£428 per person): 01242-220006, www.thewowhousecompany.co.uk*

GEORGIAN GLAMOUR

Cooks will love the well-equipped kitchen of Myrtle House, Penzance, Cornwall, which sleeps eight in four luxurious bedrooms – The Master Bedroom, for instance, features a 6ft four-poster bed. The formal dining room comfortably seats all guests around a long central table, and the first-floor sitting room with large bay window has wonderful views out to sea. There's a sandy beach nearby, or explore the area on the bikes provided free of charge. One well-behaved dog is welcome, costing £30 extra.

◆ *One week from £1,011 (£126 per person): 01872-553491, www.boutique-retreats.co.uk*

SCOTTISH SURPRISE

The House Parties collection now includes Balvonie House, 45 minutes' drive from Glasgow. Sleeping 26 guests in 11 bedrooms, the house features sea views, cinema-style roll-down screen in the sitting room so everyone can watch TV or DVDs, plus a big dining room accommodating everyone. Professional chef services are available. Up to three pets are also welcome.

◆ *One week costs from £3,845 (£148 per person): 01242-285755, www.house-parties.com*

WELSH WONDER

Six-bedroom coastal holiday home Borth Cottage near Abersoch, on the tip of the Llyn peninsula in northwest Wales, sleeps up to 12 people in luxury. The modern property has a mini-cinema and even a helipad, as well as large en-suite bathrooms, open fires, a state-of-the-art kitchen, stylish conservatory and family games room. Set in more than an acre of grounds, the property is a five-minute walk from the beach.

◆ *One week costs from £3,950 (£329 per person): 07595-466955, www.simonescapes.com*

ITALIAN IDYLL

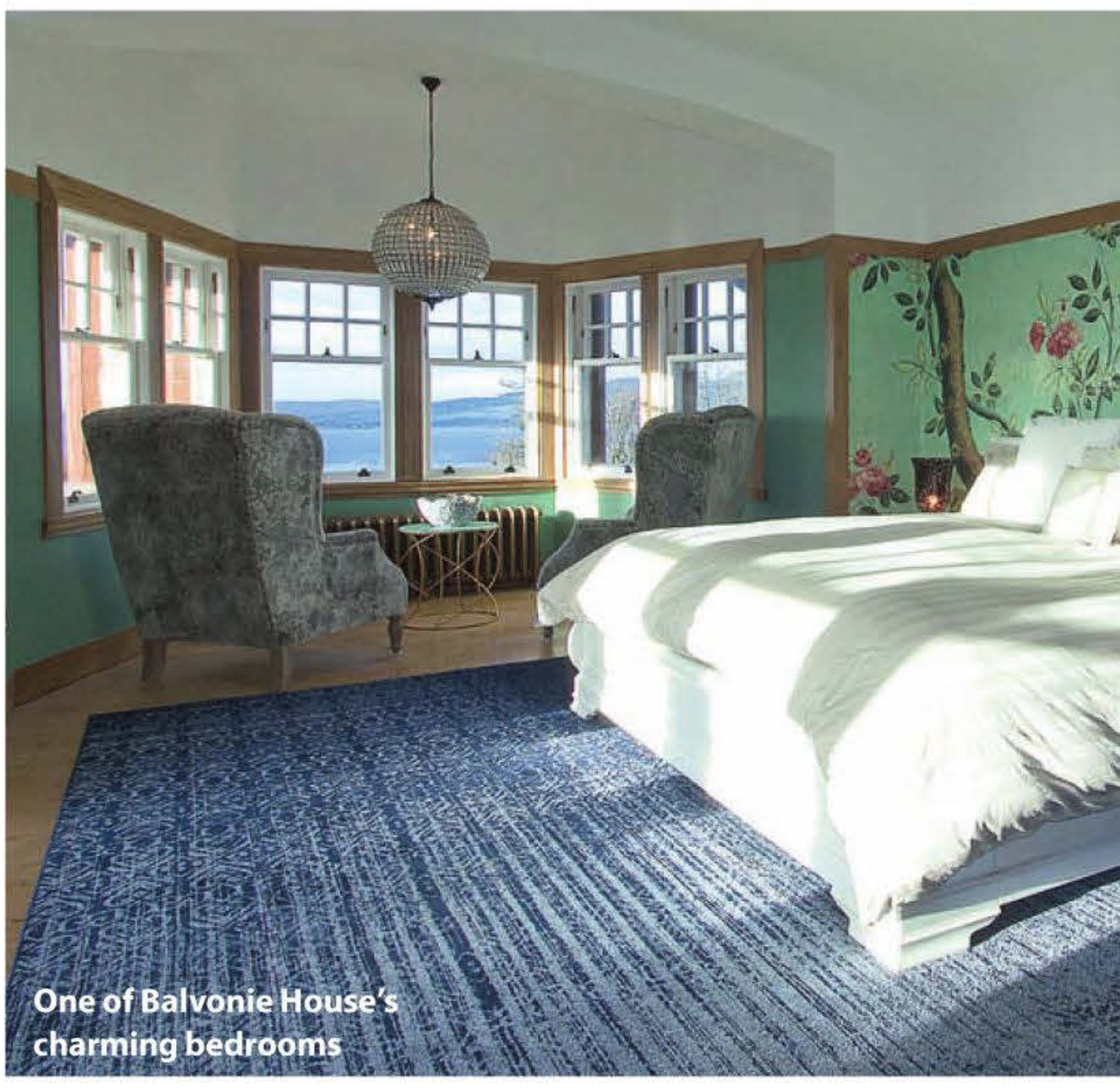
Further afield, newly restored Masseria Petrarolo, in Puglia, Italy, comes fully staffed sleeps 16 and is surrounded by olive groves and meadows. The 17th-century fortified farmhouse, a few miles from the Adriatic, has eight en-suite bedrooms (one with an outdoor shower), three kitchens, a hammam, drawing room and dining room. There's a swimming pool and a rooftop pool too. Go for a long walk or bike ride, or take a short drive into Monopoli, which has a good choice of restaurants and a fish market.

◆ *One week costs from €11,500 (€719 per person): www.masseriapetrarolo.com*

◆ ***Contact Wendy at wendy.gomersall@lady.co.uk***

◆ *Prices are correct at the time of going to press.*





One of Balvonie House's charming bedrooms



Opposite page, top: Luxurious Borth Cottage and one of its fabulous rooms with a view
Above: Enjoy la dolce vita at Masseria Petrarolo
Right: The kitchen at Myrtle House in Penzance







Pelham House has an indoor heated pool

DO THE STRAND
Strand Hotel in Yangon, Burma, is offering three- and four-night cruises on the Ayeyarwady River next year, from US dollars 1,782 per person. Echoing the luxury and service of the hotel, the Strand Cruise has 27 suites, gourmet cuisine, butler service and a wellness centre.
◆ *www.thestrandcruise.com*



CITY SLICKERS
i-escape.com's stylish CasaCau's apartments in Rome are close to the Trevi Fountain. Decked out with retro-chic furniture, contemporary artwork and original features, from £197 per night for two sharing a studio apartment.
◆ *www.i-escape.com/casacau*

BOUTIQUE LONDON
Boutique hotel chain Hotel du Vin now has a property in London. Hotel du Vin Wimbledon has 48 rooms, including two new suites. Rooms from £149 per night.
◆ *0871-943 0345, www.hotelduvin.com*

BACK *to* BASICS

Frill-free holidays are in and they come in all shapes and sizes, says Melonie Clarke



CARAVAN AND CAMPING HOLIDAYS

According to the National Caravan Council, there are 550,000 touring caravans and 330,000 caravan holiday homes currently in use in the UK. Considering all the benefits, it's no wonder that these types of holiday are so popular.

Caravans can be rented or, if you already own one, you can simply book a pitch at your preferred campsite. With sites across the UK and Europe there is plenty of choice and something to suit every requirement and budget.

Caravanning and camping make it easier to see parts of the world that may have previously been inaccessible due to the high price of hotels. My family, for example, stayed in a caravan on our first holiday to France. If you decide to holiday in the UK the cost is cheaper still, without the need for expensive flights or ferries. Not being restricted by flight times also means that these holidays are hugely flexible, a benefit for families and those who want the option to just up and go whenever they please.

For campers, advances in technology and design mean there are many high-quality tents on the market. Struggling to put up a tent is no longer a feature of a camping holiday – you can even opt for a pop-up version.

Camping and caravanning holidays are generally pet-friendly too, so the entire family (yes, your pet *is* one of the family!) can enjoy a trip away together. Cooking your meals on a barbecue can be lots of fun, and the cost of preparing food yourself as opposed to dining out in restaurants is marked.

Sleeping in the great outdoors may not be for everyone, but for the huge sense of freedom that can be achieved, everyone should try it at least once!

CAMPER VAN HOLIDAYS

A camper van is similar to a caravan or motor home except for the fact that it is smaller and generally will not have a toilet, shower or kitchen, although some vans do come with limited cooking facilities. These are a great option for those who love to travel around. You can rent camper vans but if you decide to buy, it's worth noting that a VW camper van, for example, will retain its value well and should you decide to sell it in the future, it is likely you will make your money back.

GLAMPING

Also known as luxury camping, glamping usually means getting the chance to stay in unique accommodation – a tree house, yurt, bell tent in the woods or shepherd's hut. And as this is luxury camping, forget all about pumping up airbeds – you get to enjoy all the delights of a rural setting with all the comforts of home. An actual bed, wooden floors, a log burner, fairy lights (okay, not essential, but who doesn't love fairy lights?), a firepit/barbecue or even a little kitchen – the mod cons on offer with glamping are endless.

With the luxury element comes a luxury price tag. Glamping holidays are still accessible for many, but are more expensive than a conventional camping holiday. Glamping is great for families, couples and groups of friends.

ECO HOLIDAYS

Eco holidays or ecotourism is described as responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment, sustains the wellbeing of the local people, and involves interpretation and education. Such holidays are designed to have minimal impact on the environment and increase your cultural awareness of the place in which you have chosen to stay.

The natural environment and the idea that it should be both enjoyed and protected, and the welfare of any indigenous people who may be living there, are central to an eco-holiday experience. These holidays can be educational for the traveller, provide financial support to the local community, and fund ecological conservation projects.



iSTOCK

WORKING HOLIDAYS

Working holidays aren't just a great way to learn a new skill, they also help with conservation of the environment and the area's heritage. Working holidays can be taken either abroad or in the UK, and exactly what is included can vary widely, so check before you book. Most working holidays provide you with meals and accommodation of some sort, but you should check such things as whether you will need to bring a sleeping bag, and whether you will be picked up from the nearest train station or airport. Working holidays tend to be basic in what they offer but can be incredibly rewarding, and you go away with a new skill and memories of a real adventure.

◆ *For a selection of holidays, turn to our Classifieds section.*

'Sleeping in the great outdoors may not be for everyone, but for the huge sense of freedom that can be achieved, everyone should try it at least once'







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REC Member



The British Guiana One-Cent Magenta, the world's most expensive stamp

HOW MUCH?!

The rarest, most coveted items can fetch eye-watering sums at auction. Katrina Schollenberger reveals some of the priciest lots ever sold

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

1 Guarneri del Gesù violin (1741)
Sold for: **$3.9m (£2.5m)** in 2008
This violin is one of fewer than 200 surviving instruments by Bartolomeo Giuseppe Guarneri (1698-1744), an Italian luthier considered the equal, or even the superior, of Stradivari. Once owned by Tsar Alexander II's court violinist, it was bought in 2008 by a Russian lawyer, and soon afterwards played in public for the first time in over 70 years by Israeli virtuoso Pinchas Zukerman in Moscow.
2 Molitor Stradivarius violin (1697), sold for **$3.6m (£2.3m)** in 2010
3 Hammer Stradivarius violin (1707), sold for **$3.5m (£2.2m)** in 2006
4 Solomon, Ex-Lambert Stradivarius violin (1729), sold for **$2.7m (£1.7m)** in 2007
5 Steinway Model Z upright piano (1970), on which John Lennon wrote Imagine, sold for **£1.45m** in 2000



The 1741 Guarneri del Gesù violin sold in 2008

STAMPS

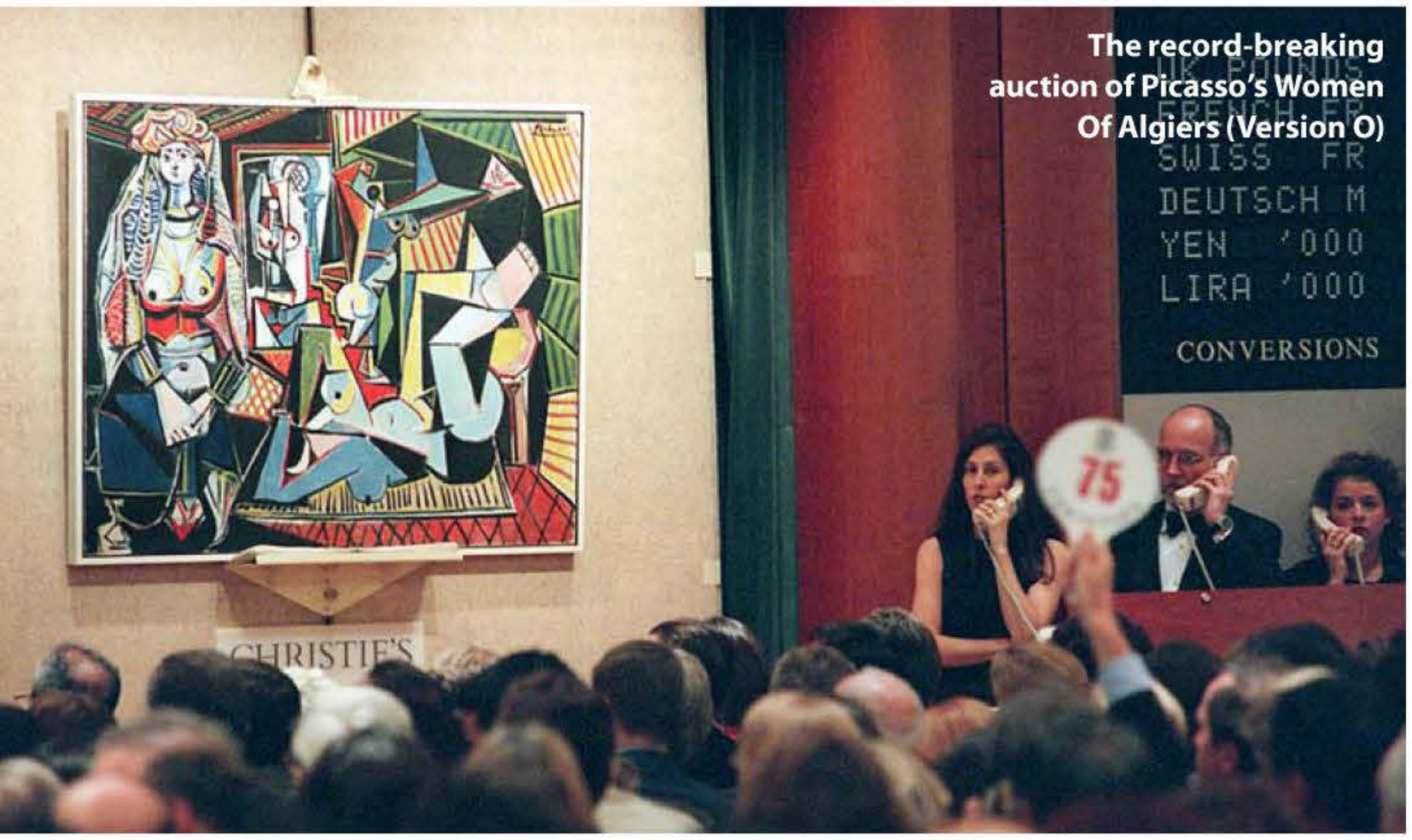
1 British Guiana One-Cent Magenta (1856)
Sold for: **$9.5m (£6.8m)** in 2014
The only surviving example of a unique series issued in 1856 in what is now Guyana, this unassuming octagonal stamp sold last year for almost one billion times its original face value. The 'Holy Grail' of philately was previously owned by philanthropist (and murderer) John du Pont, and had been out of the public view since 1987, until it was exhibited by Sotheby's in London, Hong Kong and New York prior to its sale.
2 Treskilling Yellow (1885), sold for circa **$2.3m (£1.4m)** in 2010
3 Mauritius 'Post Office' two-penny blue (1847), sold for **£1,053,090** in 2011
4 Mauritius 'Post Office' one-penny red (1847), sold for **$1,072,600** in 1993
5 Benjamin Franklin Z-Grill (1868), sold for **$935,000 (£599,000)** in 1998

VASES

1 Qianlong vase (circa 1740s)
Sold for: **$53.1m (£32.8m)** in 2010
This elaborate Chinese porcelain vase was snapped up after 30 minutes of furious bidding at provincial auction house Bainbridges. Its record price made it the most expensive piece of Chinese artwork ever sold at auction – much to the delight of the sellers, who had found it while clearing out a deceased relative's home in north-west London. The story didn't end there, though: the Chinese buyer subsequently refused to pay Bainbridges' 20 per cent fees, and after a two-year legal battle it was resold for £20-25m.
2 Qing vase (1700s), sold for **$32.4m (£20.7m)** in 2010
3 Ming vase (1400s), sold for **$22.6m (£14.4m)** in 2011
4 Qing vase (uncertain; possibly 1700s), sold for **$18m (£11.5m)** in 2011
5 Ming vase (1300s), sold for **$10.1m (£6.4m)** in 2006 ▷



The Qianlong vase, found in a house clearance, sold for £33m



The record-breaking auction of Picasso's Women Of Algiers (Version O)



The Clark sickle-leaf 'vase' carpet

CARPETS

1 Clark sickle-leaf vine scroll and palmette 'vase' carpet (circa 1600-1650)
Sold for: **$33.8m (£21.6m)** in 2013
This rug, likely made in the Kirman province of south-east Persia, was owned by former US senator William Clark, and donated to the Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington, DC following his death in 1925. With a sickle-leaf design, woven using the so-called 'vase' technique, it hails from the 17th century and measures 8ft 9in by 6ft 5in. Sold at Sotheby's in New York in 2013, it smashed its estimate of $5-7m.
2 Kirman 'vase' carpet (mid 1600s), sold for **£6.2m** in 2010
3 Mughal Millefleurs 'Star Lattice' carpet (late 1600s to early 1700s), sold for **£4.8m** in 2013
4 Louis XV Savonnerie carpet (circa 1750), sold for **$5.7m (£3.6m)** in 2010
5 Pearl Carpet of Baroda (circa 1865), sold for **$5.5m (£3.5m)** in 2009



The 1947 Cheval Blanc, 'one of the greatest Bordeaux of all time'

WINE

1 Cheval Blanc 1947
Sold for: **$304,375 (£195,000)** in 2010
A 68-year-old Cheval Blanc – the only known imperial (six litre) bottle from that vintage – holds the record for the most expensive bottle of wine ever sold, with bids far exceeding the $150,000-$200,000 estimate. Christie's wine expert Michael Ganne, who has tasted a 1947 Cheval Blanc, said it was 'without doubt one of the greatest Bordeaux of all time, not only for its rare quality but its longevity, in that it can still be kept for another 50 years without any problem'.
2 Heidsieck Champagne 1907, sold for **$275,000 (£176,000)** in 2012
3 Château Lafite Rothschild 1869, sold for **$230,000 (£147,000)** in 2010
4 Château Lafite 1787, sold for **$156,000 (£100,000)** in 1985
5 Château d'Yquem 1811, sold for **$117,195 (£75,000)** in 2011

PHOTOGRAPHS

1 Andreas Gursky, Rhein II (1999)
Sold for: **$4.3m (£2.7m)** in 2011
Described by a losing bidder at its 2011 auction, at Christie's New York, as a 'dynamite image', this large photograph, from a series of six, shows the River Rhine outside Düsseldorf, Germany, where Gursky lives. It portrays a peaceful natural landscape that resembles an abstract composition of bands of colour. Gursky uses some digital manipulation, with the aim of creating 'fictions based on facts'.
2 Cindy Sherman, Untitled (1981), sold for **$3.9m (£2.5m)** in 2011
3 Jeff Wall, Dead Troops Talk (A vision after an ambush of a Red Army patrol, near Moqor, Afghanistan, winter 1986) (1992), sold for **$3.7m (£2.3m)** in 2012
4 Andreas Gursky, 99 Cent II Diptychon (2001), sold for **$3.3m (£2.1m)** in 2007
5 Edward Steichen, The Pond – Moonlight (1904), sold for **$2.9m (£1.8m)** in 2006

PAINTINGS

1 Pablo Picasso, Women Of Algiers (Version O) (1955)
Sold for: **$179m (£114m)** in 2015
Picasso's Les Femmes d'Alger is a series of 15 paintings and numerous sketches the artist produced in the winter of 1954-55, and was inspired by an 1834 work by French Romantic painter Eugène Delacroix. Its sale back in May beat the previous record for a painting, set in 2013 by Three Studies Of Lucian Freud, by almost $37m.
2 Francis Bacon, Three Studies Of Lucian Freud (1969), sold for **$142.4m (£90m)** in 2013
3 Edvard Munch, The Scream (1895), sold for **$119.9m (£76m)** in 2012
4 Pablo Picasso, Nude, Green Leaves And Bust (1932), sold for **$106.5m (£67.8m)** in 2010
5 Andy Warhol, Silver Car Crash (Double Disaster) (1963), sold for **$105m (£67.2m)** in 2013



The 1962 Ferrari 250 GTO

CARS

1 1962 Ferrari 250 GTO Berlinetta
Sold for: **$38.1m (£24.4m)** in 2014
This 1962 Ferrari is the most expensive car ever sold at auction – for now. The 250 GTO was built to contest the 1962 FIA GT World Championships, and it won that year as well as in the following 1963 event. Only 39 models were built by Ferrari, and this particular example is one of the best maintained and most raced of them all.
2 1954 Mercedes-Benz W196, sold for **$29.6m (£19m)** in 2013
3 1967 Ferrari 275 GTB/4*S NART Spider, sold for **$27.5m (£17.6m)** in 2013
4 1964 Ferrari 275 GTB/C Speciale by Scaglietti, sold for **$26.4m (£16.9m)** in 2014
5 1954 Ferrari 375-Plus Spider Competizione, sold for **$18.4m (£11.8m)** in 2014



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Below: Lot 328. Peter Beard b 1951, two ovoid studio pottery vessels. Est: £200-300

Left: Christopher Dresser Studies in Design, first edition book. Est: £500-800



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Hands up for a bargain

Buying and selling at an auction isn't as complicated as you might think – and can be tremendous fun

KEEP IT LOCAL

Most people start off their auction buying and selling at their local auction house. The pace will be slightly slower and there will be a greater number of items you could potentially take home.

ASK THE EXPERTS

Auction houses, particularly smaller local ones, will have an expert who is used to people who have not bid before and will need some guidance. No matter how small the question, they are there to help.

THE ESTIMATE AND RESERVE

Before the sale the auctioneer prepares an estimate for each lot – a price or range of prices at which they believe the item might sell. For example, an set of art-deco armchairs may have an estimate of £100-£200. There is no guarantee that a lot will achieve its estimate, but likewise, it could sell for more. The reserve, meanwhile, is a minimum sale price agreed by the seller and auctioneer, and is usually not disclosed to the public. By law it cannot exceed the low estimate. If the bidding ends before the reserve is reached, the lot will not be sold.

THE CATALOGUE

Each lot appearing in the catalogue will have a brief description, including information such as its age. There will also be a formal condition report, which will detail any chips or cracks.

BIDDING

When you arrive for a sale you have to register for a 'paddle' – a number on a piece of card. If you want to bid on an item, hold this up to show your interest.

Be sure to note down the lot numbers of the items you would like to bid on in advance, so you can listen out for them. When a lot number comes up and it's time to start bidding, make your bid as clear as possible by raising your hand high or even standing up. For those who haven't bid before, it might be best to sit at the front. Once you have made your first bid, the auctioneer will look towards you as the bidding continues. At smaller auction houses, bids tend to rise in smaller increments of perhaps £5 or £10, but this can vary depending on the auction house and the item in question. And remember the golden rule: stick to your maximum price and don't get carried away.

BIDDING BY MISTAKE

There is little risk of bidding on an item by mistake. The auctioneer will look out for paddles, not discreet nose scratches and such. So have no fear – if you have an itchy nose, scratch away.

TELEPHONE AND INTERNET BIDS

If you are unable to attend an auction in person, you can have a bidding clerk bid on your behalf. You can tell them the most you're willing to pay for an item, but as you'll be on the other end of the phone with them during the auction, you can always amend this once the bidding starts. You can also bid online. All you need to do is register, then watch the bidding on your computer.

COMMISSION BIDS

Another form of absentee bidding is leaving a commission bid with the auctioneer, or bidding 'on the book'. To register a commission bid, fill out a form stating the lot number, your maximum bid and contact details. The auctioneer will then execute bids on your behalf. If the item sells for less, you may bag a bargain – but if it sells for more, then, alas, it's bye-bye, art-deco armchairs.

WHAT IF IT DOESN'T SELL?

If an item doesn't sell, you can buy it after the auction. The price will be whatever the seller set as the reserve.

BUYER'S PREMIUM

Auction houses used to only charge those selling items, but now buyers are also commonly liable for a fee, which can exceed 20 per cent of the winning bid.

TAKING THE ITEM HOME

You don't have to take your item immediately, but there will be a charge if it is left longer than 24-48 hours.

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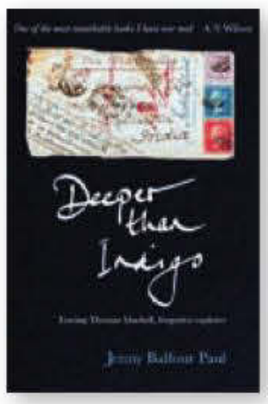
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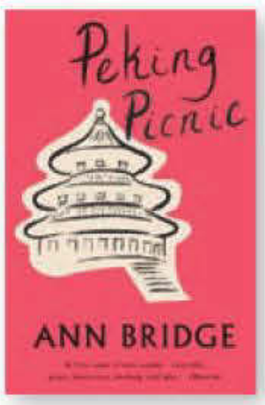
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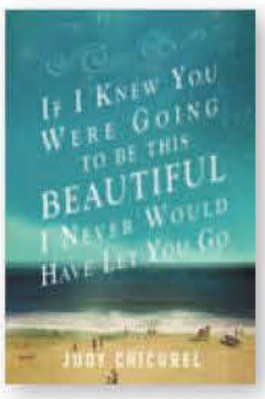
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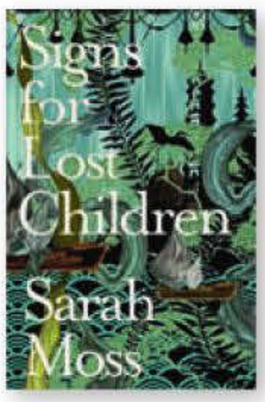
REVIEWS











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OUT NOW

DEEPER THAN INDIGO by Jenny Balfour Paul (Medina Publishing, £22.95; offer price, £21.95)
★★★★★
Central to this outstanding book's conception is the forgotten Victorian explorer and indigo planter Thomas Machell, and the remarkable effect his journals and sketches had on the author and indigo expert Jenny Balfour Paul.

By chance, Machell's trail causes him to witness a number of significant turning points for the British Empire, including the First Opium War and the Indian Mutiny. But as well as tracing Machell's life, Balfour Paul also creates a narrative of her own, often highlighting bizarre coincidences with her travels as a carefree teenager.

Through the process of her research, Balfour Paul develops a deep sense of friendship and even love for the late explorer. She approves of the way in which he isn't the stereotypical Victorian Englishman in the colonies.

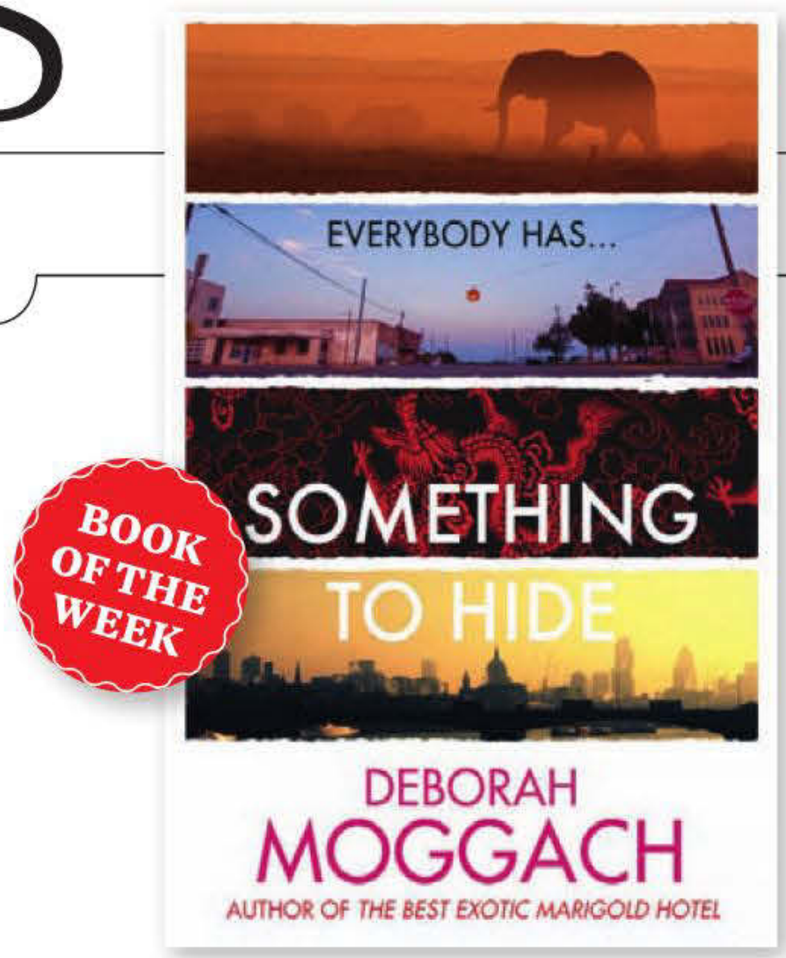
Towards the end, the book takes a surprising turn, which is sure to leave a lasting impression on the reader. A complex and painstakingly researched story.
Alastair Brent

THE DRESS by Kate Kerrigan (Head of Zeus, £12.99; offer price, £11.69)
★★★★☆
From the bright lights of 1950s New York to fast-paced, present-day London, Kerrigan's novel charts the loves and lives of three women across generations. Her protagonists are connected by their shared passion for a dress so legendary, it is said to be unmatched in beauty and workmanship.

Lily, a young fashion blogger in London, is spurred by personal tragedy to recreate a mysterious dress from 60 years ago. Joy is a delicate and damaged socialite in 1950s New York, who commissions the unique piece of couture in a last-ditch attempt to salvage her marriage – and her sanity. Honor is a homesick and talented seamstress, whose handcrafted creations conjure up the wild landscape of the west of Ireland. All of them realise too late that the dress is as dangerous as it is beautiful.

The interwoven narratives and beautifully realised characterisation make for a captivating read.
Helena Gumley-Mason

WHICH BOOK BEGINS...
'This time there would be no witnesses.'
Answer on page 80



Worldwide web of secrets

SOMETHING TO HIDE by Deborah Moggach (Chatto & Windus, £12.99; offer price, £11.69)
Secrecy masters rational thinking in this account of doubt breeding doubt. Yet such situations can end surprisingly. Deborah Moggach is never predictable in her latest novel: she keeps it nail-biting all the way through.

This is the story of four women: Petra, Lorrie, Li-Jing and Bev. Spanning four continents, it is about the deceiver and the deceived, and the endless accompanying emotions. All of the situations described are quite exotically complicated, but they are eerily plausible – although perhaps less so when taken together. Gradually, the links between them become plain. From the longing for a baby in China to underhand goings-on in Africa, a most complex chain is formed.

Behind the secrets are behaviours ranging from mysterious elusiveness to downright treachery. And, of course, some of the characters are largely dislikable. Yet Moggach evokes a strange sympathy for them. They are vulnerable in their respective set-ups, and act out of a mixture of determination and desperation. Their ulterior motives are not always cruel. But the constant question is: how far will they go?

It is a tense and thrilling plot. Moggach keeps us guessing, and reminds us that the intention to hide something – or, in turn, to find it out – can really know no bounds.
Philippa Williams

PAPERBACKS

PEKING PICNIC by Ann Bridge (Daunt Books, £9.99; offer price, £9.49)

★★★★☆

As a well-travelled diplomat's wife, Ann Bridge had a real knowledge of colonial China and its inhabitants. Set in 1930s Peking, her enthralling first novel captures the breathtaking beauty of the Chinese landscape in spring and the diplomatic whirl of cocktails and picnic parties. Little happens for 150 pages, but then the group are taken hostage by murderous bandits and unsuitable love affairs flourish.

Laura Leroy, the pearls-and-breeches-wearing heroine, reminds me of Vita Sackville-West. She misses her children, back in school in England, and although 'fond' of her husband, the British attaché, she considers taking a lover for excitement. Though it has an unlikely plot, I enjoyed this novel, which captures the delicious ambience and decadence of a vanished era. *Rebecca Wallersteiner*

COFFEE TABLE BOOK

ALBERTUS SEBA: Cabinet Of Natural Curiosities by Irmgard Müsch, Jes Rust and Rainer Willmann (Taschen, £12.99; offer price, £11.69)

★★★★☆



In his lifetime, Amsterdam-based pharmacist Albertus Seba (1665-1736) won international fame as a collector of natural specimens. His seminal work, the Cabinet Of Natural Curiosities, is one of the most important natural history books of all time, with detailed illustrations of every item in his collection. The exquisite reproductions showcased here are from a rare, hand-coloured original manuscript. Both scientifically accurate and vibrantly attractive, they depict exotic plants, insects, colourful birds and butterflies, and species that are now extinct. It is an intriguing snapshot of a lifetime's obsession – and of natural science in one of its most fascinating periods. *JC*

IF I KNEW YOU WERE GOING TO BE THIS BEAUTIFUL, I NEVER WOULD HAVE LET YOU GO by Judy Chicurel (Tinder Press, £7.99; offer price, £7.59)

★★★★☆

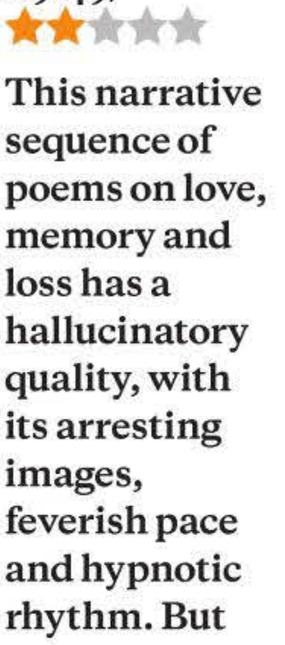
Comanche Street on Long Island has been home for Katie for three years, and in that time she has watched the world as through someone else's eyes. As the summer days grow longer, Katie senses the future may be far closer than she and her young friends anticipated. Illegal abortions, drugs and the return of a childhood sweetheart from Vietnam make her realise that change is not always for the better. Chicurel's novel has its dark moments, but the overriding sentiment is one of acceptance, resilience and the enduring power of friendship. A coming-of-age tale with a haunting quality. *HG-M*

SIGNS FOR LOST CHILDREN by Sarah Moss (Granta Books, £12.99; offer price, £11.69)

★★★☆☆

Contrasting cultures and a tested relationship are at the heart of Moss's fourth novel, a sequel to Bodies Of Light. Newlyweds Ally and Tom are separated for six months: while he sails to Japan in search of better fortunes, she becomes a resident physician at a women's asylum in Cornwall. Will their marriage survive such different life experiences? Presenting a beautiful contrast between the landscapes, traditions and food of late-19th-century Japan and England, this is an absorbing read with an unconventional plotline. *Amelia White*

ALSO ON THE SHELF

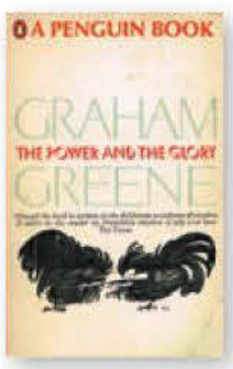


AND SHE WAS by Sarah Corbett (Pavilion Poetry, £9.99; offer price, £9.49)

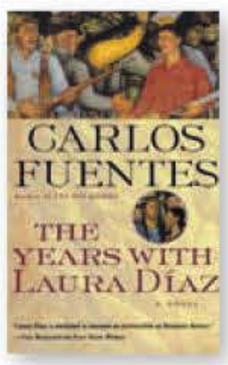
★★☆☆☆

This narrative sequence of poems on love, memory and loss has a hallucinatory quality, with its arresting images, feverish pace and hypnotic rhythm. But somehow the whole is less than the sum of its parts: an ambitious verse novel that asks a lot of its reader but gives grudgingly. *JC*

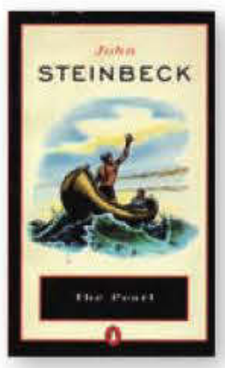
3 GREAT BOOKS: **SET IN MEXICO**



THE POWER AND THE GLORY by Graham Greene



THE YEARS WITH LAURA DIAZ by Carlos Fuentes



THE PEARL by John Steinbeck



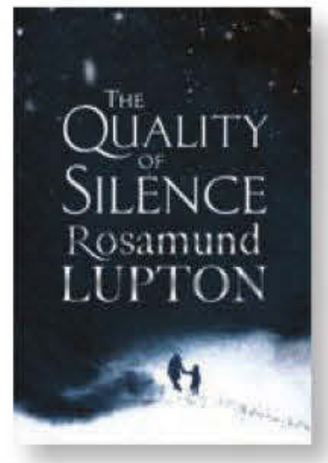
GUESS THE COVER
Answer on page 80

AUDIO BOOK OF THE WEEK

THE SAFFRON TRAIL by Rosanna Ley (Whole Story Audiobooks, £25.52; offer price, £22.97)
Bereavement, family history and a love of cookery are a heady mix in this novel, following two women's travels in Marrakech – and towards their dreams and secrets. Richly evocative with a hint of mystery, like the spice. *JC*

THE LADY'S HOLIDAY READS

Our pick of this summer's essential reading, no matter where you are enjoying a well-deserved break. By Victoria Clark



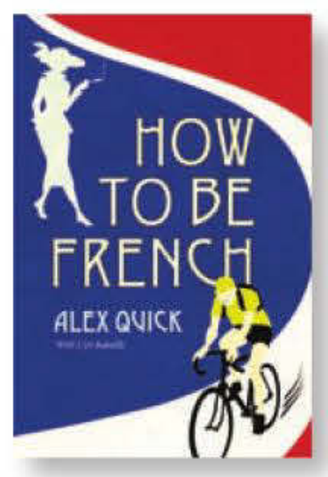
AT THE BEACH

THE QUALITY OF SILENCE by Rosamund Lupton (Little, Brown, £14.99; offer price, £13.49)
Yasmin and her profoundly deaf daughter Ruby arrive in Alaska to join her wildlife photographer husband. They are met by police who tell them he has died in a freak fire, which has destroyed the Inupiat village where he was staying. Numbed with disbelief, Yasmin embarks upon a terrifying journey to find him. Gripping, bleak and sensitive.

IN THE CITY

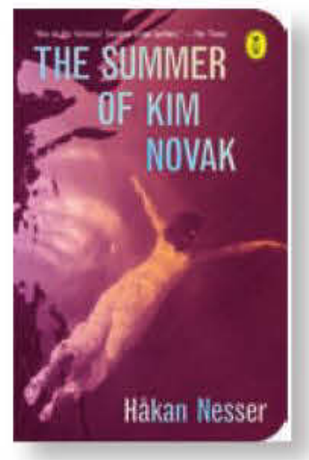
HOW TO BE FRENCH by Alex Quick (Old Street Publishing, £8.99; offer price, £8.54)
If you are heading for Paris this will guide you through the more eccentric aspects of French life. From their elaborate gesticulation to their layered slang, this book has an entry on everything that separates France and Britain, except the Channel. This manual may not turn you into an authentic Frenchman, but it will allow you to enjoy a more *soigné* visit.

#lady holiday reads



IN THE GARDEN

THE SUMMER OF KIM NOVAK by Håkan Nesser (World Editions, £9.99; offer price, £9.49)
With his mother dying and his father working long hours, 14-year-old Erik needs looking after in the summer holidays. Thus he finds himself in his family's lakeside shack with his friend Edmund and his older brother Henry. Isolated and hormonal, the two invest heavily in Henry's affair with Ewa, a Kim Novak lookalike. A suspenseful novel, combining rites of passage with murder.



Tweet us your holiday reads @TheLadyMagazine using hashtag #ladyholidayreads

In this new series, notable writers tell us about their reading habits. Is there someone you would like to see featured? Write to us with your suggestions.

THIS WEEK I'M READING...

Sara Crowe

The actress and novelist on husband-hunting in colonial India and reading in bed



Tell us about what you are reading... The Fishing Fleet by Anne de Courcy, about husband-hunting in India during the Raj. There were many eligible bachelors, and the young ladies who went out from Britain looking for husbands were known as the Fishing Fleet. Those who came back without one were called 'the returned empties'! It is a wonderful read. I saw a lady interviewed about living in India towards the end of the Raj. She said she never even had to tie her own shoelaces. She added wistfully that she had only to hold out her hand and someone would put a gin in it! They seem such heady, opulent days, but of course that came at a high price to humanity.

Do you prefer a Kindle or heaving bookshelves? Heaving bookshelves.

What's on your holiday reading list? Hotel Du Lac by Anita Brookner; Eat Pray Love by Elizabeth Gilbert; Thérèse Raquin by Emile Zola and A Year With CS Lewis (daily readings from his classic works).

Where is your favourite reading spot? Bed!

What is your favourite bookshop? It's hard to narrow it down to one. I love bookshops. I like Waterstones Piccadilly. I recently went into two brilliant independent bookshops, Reading Matters in Chapel-en-le-Frith and Storytellers Inc in Lytham St Annes.

Which authors have influenced you most? I like CS Lewis, the Brontës, F Scott Fitzgerald and Judith Kerr, because they sweep you away to other worlds with their writing.

◆ *Campari For Breakfast, by Sara Crowe, is published by Black Swan, priced £7.99; offer price, £7.59.*

LUMA FOUNDATION; DAVID LEVENE; GAGOSIAN GALLERY; ELA BIALKOWSKA; NIKKI HOLLAND

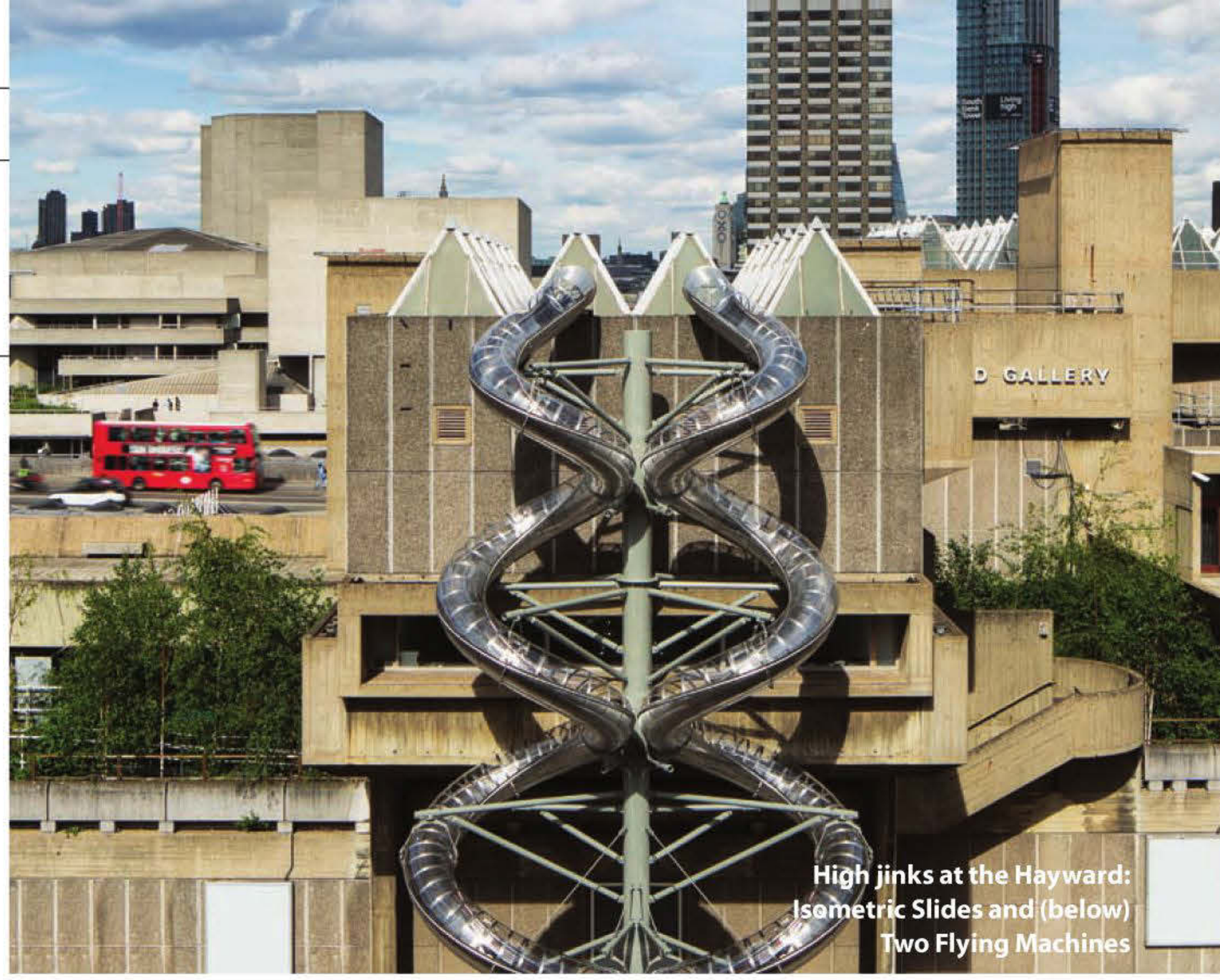
Art

WACKY AND WONDERFUL

Slide down the building or dangle over a bridge. Great art, but not as we know it



Sam Taylor



High jinks at the Hayward: Isometric Slides and (below) Two Flying Machines

CARSTEN HOLLER: DECISION

★★★★☆

'It's impossible to travel down a slide without smiling,' the artist Carsten Höller announced recently about his fairground attitude to art installations. In 2006 he cheered up the city by installing five huge slides in the Turbine Hall at the Tate Modern. The squeals of delight could be heard from outside the vast concrete insulated building.

This summer his twin Isometric Slides are sited on the outside of the Hayward Gallery, giving this dour building Pompidou appeal. Inevitably, it has proved the hit of the show – and there are some wacky contenders.

The theme of the show is decision-making; should I/ shouldn't I try the Upside Down Goggles? Do, there is something to be said for staring at The Shard upside down, giving it the appearance of a glass ice-cream cone. It's a trick he's been playing on art lovers since 1994 but the oldies are always the best.

Then there is Pill Clock. Every few seconds it will disgorge a capsule from the ceiling, which joins a growing pile on the floor. Are we supposed to take one? Will the security guard put you in a headlock?

The terrace abutting the traffic-laden Waterloo Bridge is a temporary home to Höller's Two Flying Machines: two high-wire-type structures that allow visitors to float over the bridge in a harness attached to one of the rotating arms. Not for the faint-hearted.

In keeping with the 'decisions' theme, there are two entrances into the exhibition, which take you through a pair of pitch-black steel tunnels. You choose, both a bit unnerving after the brilliant sunshine.

Curator Ralph Rugoff says he believes visitors will be given a fresh way of seeing the world. 'Almost every piece in this exhibition has a wonderful, mischievous playfulness to it,' he said when the show opened.

Certainly the virtual-reality headsets that take the visitor on a journey through a dark forest in split-screen are playful, if not a little alarming. The dual-screen tour gives each eye a different path, which is not necessarily nice.

But like all good fairgrounds, Holler has been sure to supply a darker side to the show, and the visitors' sensory reactions, intended as very much part of the experience, making it all the more compelling. As a general rule, people are not encouraged to emote loudly in front of an artwork. Even a very bad one. But scream, squeal, shout. Holler wants it all. In return, he will give you as much fun as it is possible to have while 'doing culture' this summer.

◆ *Until 6 September at the Hayward Gallery, Southbank Centre, London SE1: 0844-875 0073, www.southbankcentre.co.uk*



DVD OF THE WEEK

THE AVENGERS: SEASON 5

We all mourned the recent death of great British actor Patrick Macnee, but one of his best-known roles, as smooth, bowler-hat-wearing super-sleuth John Steed, has been brought back to life in this recent re-release. The DVD includes all 24 episodes of Season 5 and features Macnee alongside co-star Diana Rigg, as his high-kicking associate Emma Peel. *MW*

3 BEST: **FILMS ABOUT ART THEFT**



THE MONUMENTS MEN (2014)



ENTRAPMENT (1999)



STOLEN (2006)

Theatre

OH WHAT A KNIGHT

This unforgettable opening night at Chichester was the stuff of nightmares, especially for Sir Lenny Henry



Georgina Brown

EDUCATING RITA

★★★☆☆

Like Bernard Shaw's Pygmalion, Willy Russell's Educating Rita is about a working-class woman bettering herself with the encouragement of an older man. There are, of course, differences, but strikingly both Eliza and Rita outstrip their mentors in terms of emotional intelligence.

At the opening night of the current revival of Educating Rita in Chichester, Lashana Lynch's gobby Scouser 'urdresser Rita proved her credentials earlier than the plot demands. For, poor old Lenny Henry – Sir Lenny now – who is playing Frank, Rita's Open University tutor, got into a wretched tangle about whether literary criticism should be objective or subjective. Lynch's Rita prattled on, without batting a heavily made-up eyelid. But Lenny had lost the plot – literally. 'I'm sorry,' he said to the audience. 'I've completely gone. Do you mind if I leave for just a second?'

Yikes. Actually, I had already stopped breathing when he said subjective for what felt like the tenth time. In fact, I had been anxious from the get-go, because Henry himself seemed uncertain, not fully inhabiting the part of the shambolic Frank as he padded around his study, not just searching for whisky bottles hidden behind Ibsen and Eliot, but also reaching for his words.

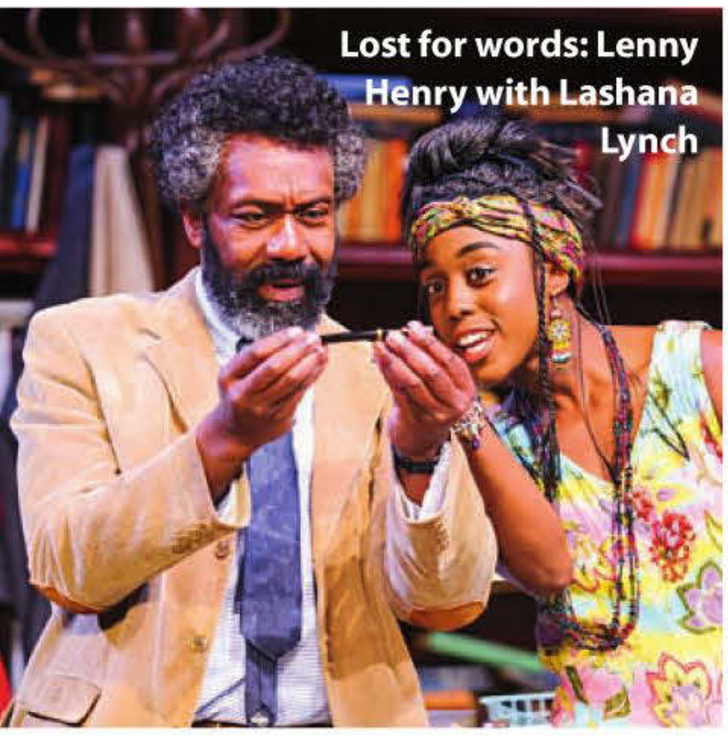
A few minutes later, he returned to the stage, word-perfect, but sagging as surely as Frank's woolly cardies. His recovery, however, was better than mine. When an actor steps out of character, the spell is broken, and one's confidence is lost.

The miracle is that it happens so rarely. An actor's job is to remember the words, be in the right place at the right time, a feat of memory I shall always be in awe of. But while I have huge admiration for Henry for getting through the performance, losing myself in the drama was, that night, impossible. Nevertheless, Lynch's Rita shone brightly, all but eclipsing Henry's Frank as he descends into drink, disillusion and self-loathing as his protégée gradually slips from his grasp.

Michael Buffong's production has the good idea of giving Rita almost as many wig and costume changes as Kristin Scott Thomas's HM the Queen in The Audience as Rita experiments with various new identities. She swaps garish ensembles with high heels for studenty dungarees and trainers, a froth of tight curls for groovy braids. She finally finds her equilibrium in elegant trousers, a long coat and a classy short cut.

Lynch emerges as a fresh new talent. But it was a night – and a knight – made unforgettable for being the stuff of nightmares.

◆ *Until 25 July at Chichester Festival Theatre, Oaklands Park, Chichester, West Sussex: 01243-781312, www.cft.org.uk*



Lost for words: Lenny Henry with Lashana Lynch



CD OF THE WEEK

SONGS BY SCHUBERT 2, Ian Bostridge and Julius Drake, £8.99: www.amazon.co.uk

In his second volume of Schubert songs, tenor Ian Bostridge, widely regarded as one of the finest interpreters of Schubert, is accompanied by pianist Julius Drake. This album was recorded as part of Bostridge's Wigmore Hall Live series, and captures all the intensity and warmth of a live performance. GS

BOOK AHEAD

MACK & MABEL Michael Ball stars in this musical based on the romance between Hollywood legends Mack Sennett and Mabel Normand. From 13 July to 5 September at Chichester Festival Theatre, Oaklands Park, Chichester, West Sussex: **01243-781312, www.cft.org.uk**

HANDMADE AT KEW
Prestigious international craft event offering ceramics, glass, jewellery, furniture and fashion directly from the makers. From 8 to 11 October at Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew: **020-7286 5110, www.handmadeinbritain.co.uk**

LEE MEAD TOUR The singer and actor with hit musicals Joseph And The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, Wicked and Legally Blonde has launched his Some Enchanted Evening tour. Until 6 December at venues nationwide: **www.leemead.co.uk**



Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

Musical


It's now or never: catch this great Elvis musical on tour

...AND LAST CHANCE

CREATIVE MASTERCLASS Indulge yourself in a day of hands-on art classes, open to those of all standards wishing to unlock their future potential. On 18 July at Victoria Baths (top right), Chorlton-on-Medlock, Manchester: **0161-224 2020, www.creativemasterclass.eventbrite.co.uk**



KRUG & CHIPS Champagne house Krug has teamed with Tom Sellers, chef patron of Michelin-starred restaurant Story, to create a gourmet chip shop (centre) in a unique setting, complete with chip-shop-themed dining pods. Until 12 July at East Piazza, Covent Garden, London WC2: **www.krug.com/krugandchips**



UNDERNEATH THE STARS FESTIVAL A fresh new summer festival (below) of music, arts and food – perfect for all the family. The line-up includes five-time Grammy Award-winning singer-songwriter Mary Chapin Carpenter. From 24 to 26 July at Cannon Hall Farm, near Barnsley, South Yorkshire: **01226-767872, www.underthestarsfest.co.uk**



WHICH PLAY BEGINS...

'No eggs! No eggs!! Thousand thunders, man, what do you mean by no eggs?'

Answer on page 80

THE KING SINGS

Cheesier than an overripe Gorgonzola, the 25 Elvis hits and cracking subplots will put a smile on your face



Richard Barber

LOVE ME TENDER

★★★★☆

You pays your money and you takes your choice. As it happens, I caught Love Me Tender at a matinee on the same day I saw Bend It Like Beckham in the evening. They could scarcely be more different and yet, for sheer enjoyment, I couldn't put a cigarette paper between the two.

Broadly put, Love Me Tender is the Elvis musical, a story loosely constructed around 25 songs by the King and, judging by the Wimbledon audience, you're likely to emerge, wherever you catch it on its nationwide tour, with a silly smile on your face.

Cheesier than an overripe Gorgonzola, it's the tale of Chad – universally referred to as the 'roustabout' – a guitar-playing, motorbike-riding wandering minstrel who breezes into a Midwestern town and proceeds to cause a succession of grown women to swoon at his feet, clad, of course, in blue suede shoes.

He's attractively played by Ben Lewis in the manner of David Hasselhoff, all knowing winks at the audience and a line in patter that includes exhortations like: 'Let's punch a hole in this donut!' when he wants to get things moving.

For motor mechanic Natalie (a sweet-voiced Lindsey Tierney for an indisposed Laura Tebbutt), this is the real thing. Much nonsense ensues, with Natalie pretending to be a boy called Ed, the better to win Chad's respect, although no more nonsensical, I suppose, than many of the Bard's tales of mistaken identity.

There are any number of subplots with almost all of the characters in love with the wrong people. Miss Sandra, the vampy head of the museum (Kate Tydman giving herself a very good time), loves Ed; the white supremacist mayor, Matilda (Sian Reeves, ditto), doesn't realise she's already married to the love of her life; Shaun Williamson's Jim thinks he loves Miss Sandra until the dying minutes of the show when his eyes are opened to the charms of Sylvia (Mica Paris); nerdy Dennis (a very funny turn from Mark Anderson) is in love with Natalie, or so he thinks; and Matilda's white son, Dean, falls for black Lorraine (Felix Mosse and Aretha Ayeh).

Throw in everything from Heartbreak Hotel and One Night With You to It's Now Or Never, Can't Help Falling In Love and the title track, and you have a score where almost everybody will know almost all the words. Just one major complaint: Mica Paris, she of the glorious, golden voice, gets only one solo number, There's Always Me, which will leave you all shook up. And gagging for more.

◆ *The UK tour finishes on 19 September in Cardiff. For details: www.lovemetendermusical.com*


Can't help falling... Shaun Williamson and Mica Paris

Television

JOANNA'S JOURNEY

Charming, curious, curt: Joanna Lumley does Asia



Ben Felsenburg



Sparks will fly: Joanna Lumley travels from Hong Kong to Moscow

Woe betide those who incur the wrath of an unstoppable, imperious figure leading the way thousands of miles across Asia. No, it's not Genghis Khan and his merciless horde, but Ab Fab's Patsy with camera crew in tow. In **Joanna Lumley's Trans-Siberian Adventure (Sunday, ITV, 9pm)**, the actress is ever charming and insatiably curious, but she always speaks her mind. Visiting a Rolls-Royce dealer in Beijing, she's a concerned passenger on a test drive with a millionairess who can't keep off her phone behind the wheel on a busy road, incurring la Lumley's frosty admonition: 'Darling – I think probably not with the mobile at the moment...'

Tiananmen Square, she tells us with sad irony, means 'heaven peace gate', and there she looks up with a disapproving shake of the head at a video advert for Tibet, which reduces a brutally occupied nation to a holiday destination. Clearly, Lumley would never settle for politely serving the needs of the local tourist board, and sparks will fly all the way to the Kremlin over the three episodes. Even as she laps up the lavish spectacle of the Chinese emperor's court at the Forbidden City, she can't help but pick out the human meaning of a place where every night each of the thousands of lonely concubines would hope to be the one selected for a maximum allotted two hours with their master. 'Make it snappy, make it good!' exclaims Lumley with a theatrical click of her fingers.

NOT TO BE MISSED

DRAGONS' DEN
Sunday, BBC2, 8.15pm
The dragons are back to dole out scorching verdicts and largesse; Evan Davis consoles the losers.



HIVE MINDS
Tuesday, BBC4, 8.30pm
Try and beat the teams searching for hidden words in a brain-straining new quiz with Fiona Bruce (above).



SECRET LIFE OF TWINS
Wednesday, ITV, 9pm
Discovering the extra-ordinary connections between twins in a thoroughly riveting study of the subject (above).

ITV PICTURES; BBC PICTURES

Radio

A STAND-UP GUY

Charlie Williams: a warm tribute that does him proud



Louis Barfe

Charlie Williams was a remarkable man. Best remembered as a stand-up comic, he was originally a professional footballer of some distinction. Moreover, he was mixed race at a time when black faces were a rarity on television, the son of a Barbadian father and a Barnsley mother. Poet and fellow Barnsley man Ian McMillan was responsible for a kind, warm documentary about Williams on Radio 4 last week. He recalled his family's pride watching Williams hosting The Golden Shot. Colour didn't figure. Williams was talking in a Barnsley accent on national television. Between him and Parky, Barnsley owned the world.

McMillan met Williams' childhood friends, the producers who made him a television star and his widow. The portrait painted was of a lovely, gentle man who became a massive star. His widow explained that he eschewed gag writers. Material came from his experiences, maybe exaggerated just a little. Williams joked about prejudice by telling audiences he'd move in next door if they didn't laugh.

Dotun Adebayo, always terrible on Up All Night, made good points about black children in the 1970s



enduring playground taunts prompted by Williams' self-deprecating humour, but I could have done without him emulating the tormentors' shrieks of laughter.

In an archive interview, Williams argued that prejudice was as old as humanity, that the only race that mattered was the human race and that his gags were intended to make everyone laugh, hopefully at themselves.

It's easy now to criticise him for not being confrontational, but it was a different time. In the long term, I feel he did a lot of good for harmony and understanding. He was trapping flies with honey rather than vinegar, and this programme largely did him proud.

◆ *Looking for Charlie Williams, BBC Radio 4, on BBC iPlayer.*

◆ *Louis on Twitter: @LFBarfe or email: wireless@cheeseford.net*



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Continued on page 68



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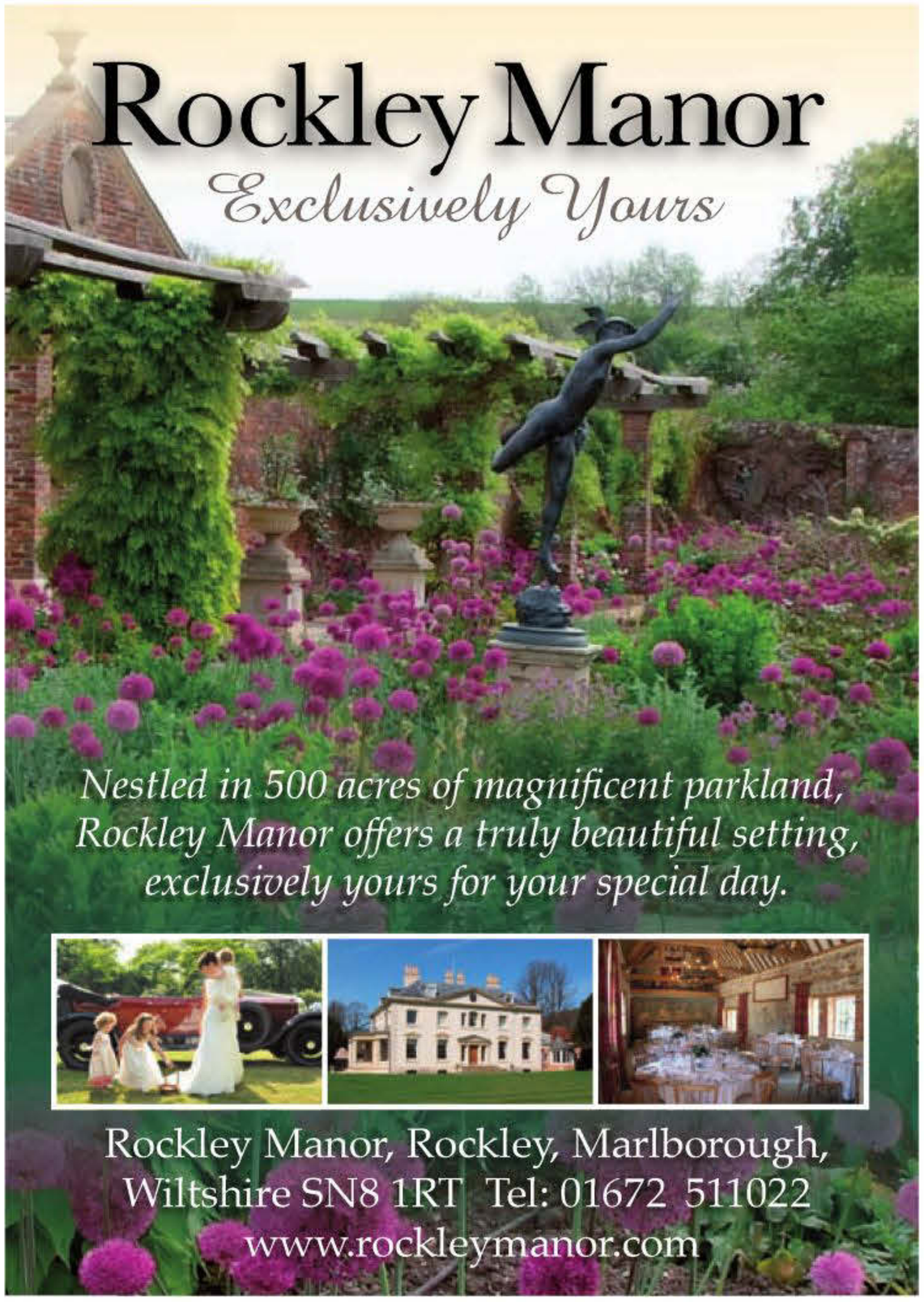
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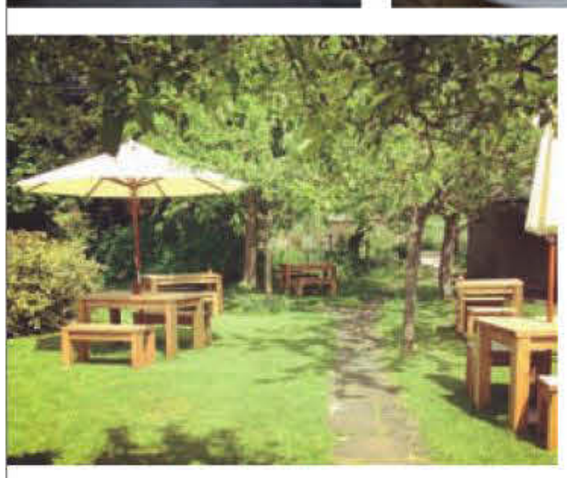
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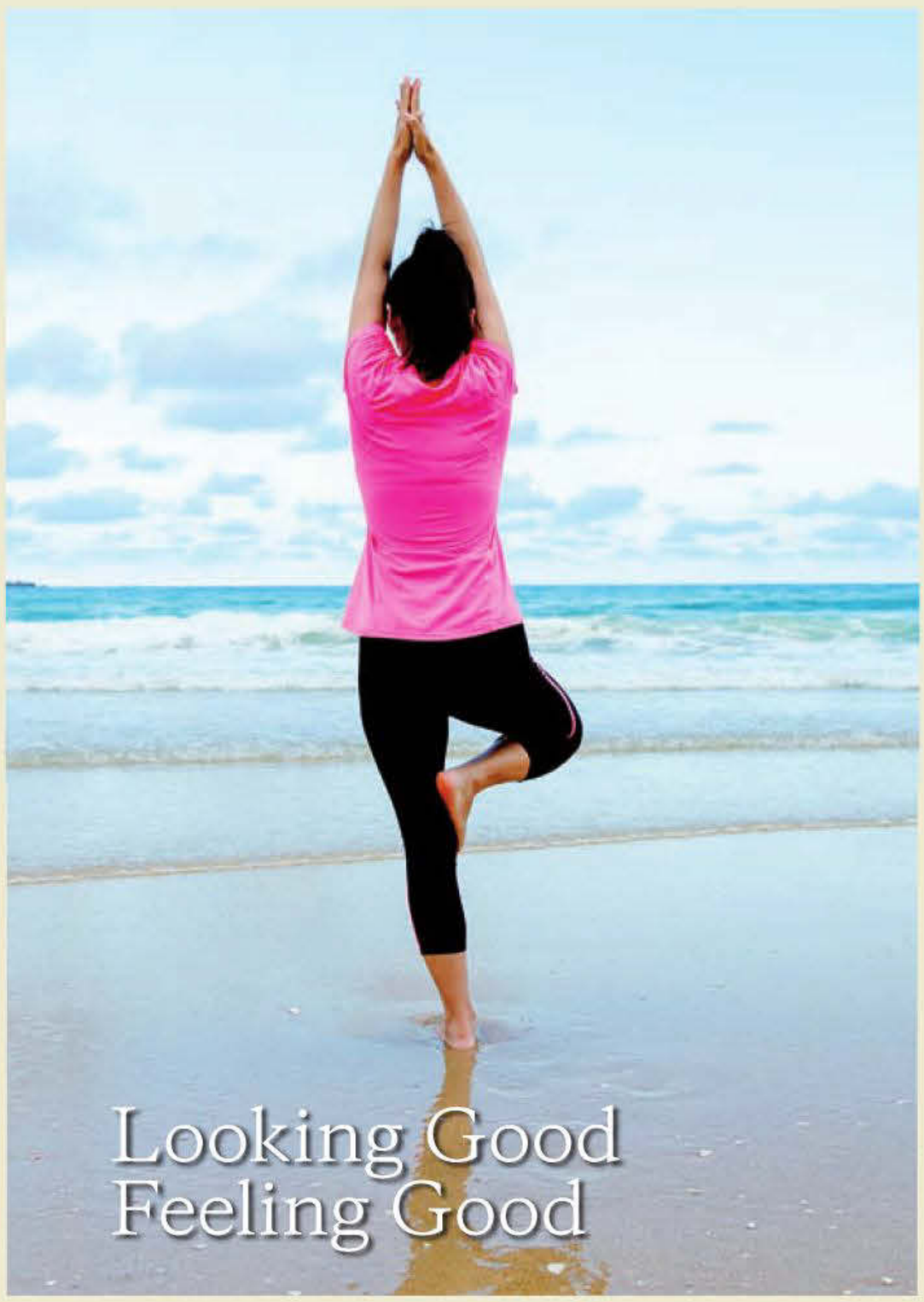
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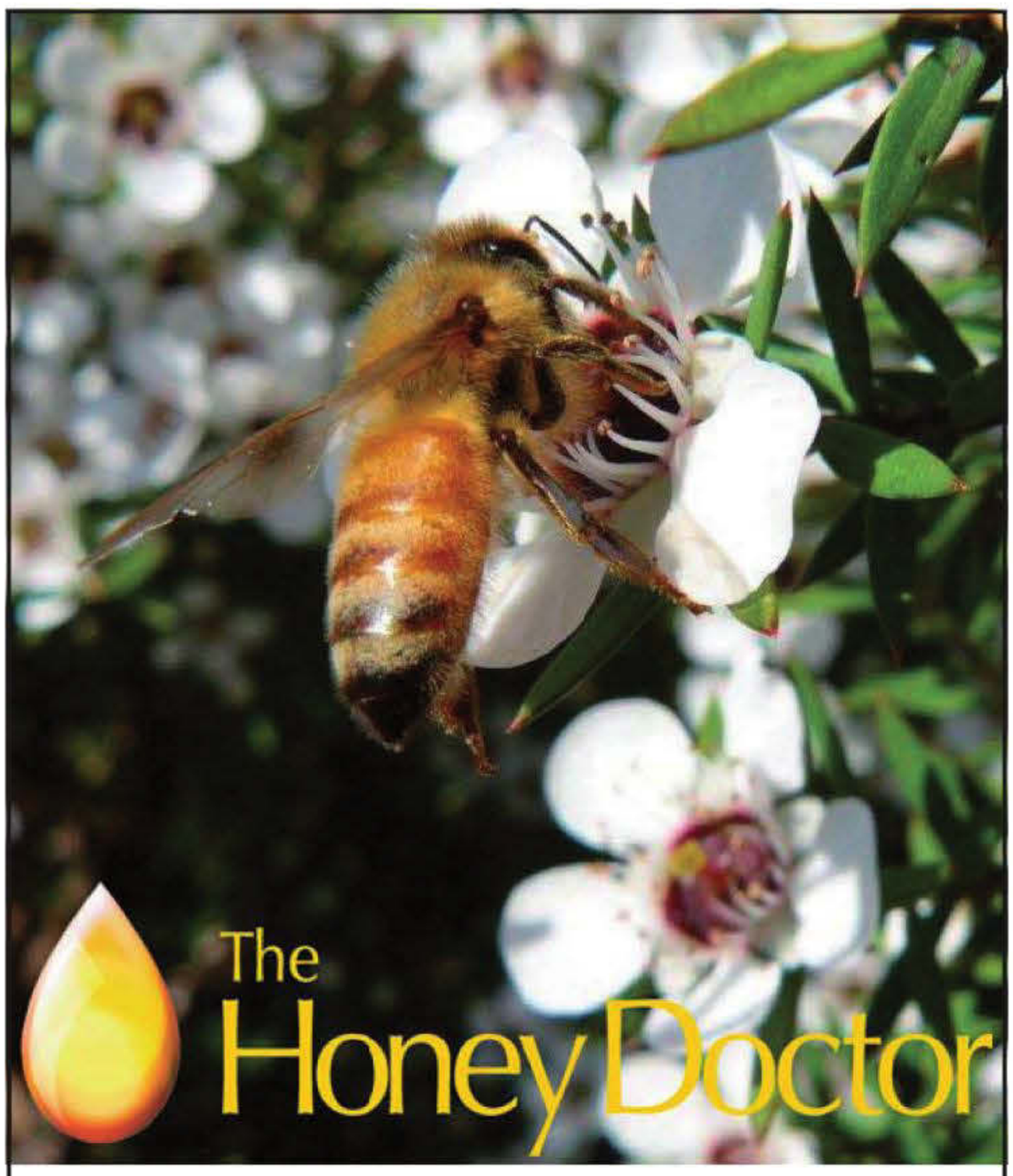
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Tel. 07956 808673

MATURE LIVE-IN CARER, experienced in all conditions including palliative. CRB, insured, kind, compassionate, trustworthy and responsible. Checkable references to support. Driver/cook, Surrey/Sussex area.
Tel. 07572 408241

MATURE CARER available. Live-in/ Live-out, nursing experience & excellent references.
Contact Tel. 01322 278140 / 07580 821993

INTELLIGENT, ORGANISED, Personal Assistant available. Admin, home & life management.
Tel. 07966 366927

PRIVATE ENGLISH FEMALE, 20 years' experience, live-in carer, driver. Excellent references.
Tel. 07594 143957

HARD WORKING and kind hearted country lady with well behaved dog seeks cheerful, live-in role as cook/ companion to a sole kindly person. G.S.O.H & n/s. Excellent references.
Contact Tel. 07950 596924

EXPERIENCED CARER, reliable with NVQ 3 seeking live-in position. Non-driver.
Contact Tel. 07446 845232

ENGLISH LADY. London, live-in/ out carer/companion. Mature, experienced, good references.
Email: jdagois@msn.com or
Tel. 07923 867222

UK COUPLE, experienced in Private Residence, Estate & Hotel (PL holder). Excellent references.
Contact Tel. 07532 298382 or
Email: strath2626@aol.com

HEALTH SOCIAL ASSISTANT Companion, London, Live-out, Reliable, Grooming, Cook, Organised Diary, Travel Arrangements, DBS, Driver, GSOH, Discrete, References.
Tel. 07565 620528
Email: isabelcosta21@hotmail.co.uk

DRIVER/HANDYPERSON. Security trained close protection level 3 frontline, escort duties, advanced driving, estate maintenance and forestry. Willing to travel.
Contact Tel. 0800 0430763

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCED Gardener seeks position in New Forest area or, if accommodation offered, West Sussex.
Tel 07437 961879 or 01590 624672

EXPERIENCED LIVE-IN Carer. Reliable and professional, excellent references, DBS. Short/Long time care. Contact Tel. 07834 775895

EXPERIENCED 35YR CARER/ Companion needs urgent temporary live-in placement for 6-8 weeks between 15/07/15 - 23/09/15. Good cook, gardening, G.S.O.H, non-driver. Mid Anglia, Camb, Herts area ideally.
Contact Mrs Renton on
Tel. 01799 522781

MATURE PATIENT reliable live-in carer, nursing experience, good references.
Contact Tel, 07463 598808

EXPERIENCED 35YR CARER/COMPANION

Urgent temporary live-in placement for 6-8 weeks needed between 15/07/15 - 23/09/15. Good cook, gardening, G.S.O.H, non-driver. Mid Anglia, Camb, Herts area ideally.

Contact Mrs Renton on Tel. 01799 522781

MALE NURSE available for private home care. Experienced in Neurology/Rehabilitation. UK NMC registration, driver, excellent references, London area.
Contact Tel. 07891 242268

EXPERIENCED GURKHA Chauffeur seeking employment London & Home Counties. Very happy to multi task. Trustworthy, discreet, CRB.
Contact Tel. 07886 900610
Email. dgurung8@hotmail.com

PROFESSIONAL LADY (non-residential) housekeeper/gardener in Cotswolds.
Contact Tel. 07856 254114

EXPERIENCED MATURE COUPLE. Seek new position primarily Care taking/security, with part time duties, in a rural Setting. Ideal location would be the south west of England but would consider other areas. Clean Driving Licence, animal Lovers, non smokers. Ex ref.
Tel. 01506 873870

EXPERIENCED LIVE-IN carer. Kind, reliable, hardworking, excellent references with immediate start.
Contact Tel. 07950 939388

GARDENING, caretaking,animal care. Mature lady, responsible reliable, adaptable.
Tel. 07713 139311

EXPERIENCED, CONSIDERATE Carer looking for 3 days work per week, Surrey. References.
Tel. 07900 327751

AUGUST - Relief housekeeper/ holiday help available. Southern Counties preferred.
Tel. 01548 831116

ATTRACTIVE LADY, qualified Pilates Instructor and personal trainer, seeks position in a school or gym. Also available for classes and one-to-one sessions.
Tel. 07754 874130

EXPERIENCED HOUSEKEEPER/ Mothers Help/Cook. Live-in or live-out, immediate start, no pets, long-term, references provided. London area preferred.
Contact Tel. 01689 898443

EXPERIENCED FEMALE Carer seeks live-in or live-out. NVQ 2 and driver.
Contact Tel. 07708 723487

'OLD ETONIAN' undergraduate seeks London summer employment in capacity where adaptability and pleasant manner appreciated. Prep school teaching experience.
Email: jackooh15@hotmail.com
Tel. 07554 432063 (not 12-20/7)

PA HOUSEKEEPER. Highly experienced PA, creative, discrete and practical seeks position. (20-35 pw) in admin, house and life management. 15 mile radius of BA4.
Contact Tel. 01749 860850

GAY MALE Butler/Valet/ Companion, 42 (plus small dog!). Looking for live-in position in a friendly, informal household for a professional preferably in the City. Separate accommodation preferred if possible? Previous experiences: 16 years In Flight Manager for Concorde, a Butler/Valet/PA in stately home in UK, and working for over 4 years as a "Gentleman's Gentleman" for a high profile professional in London. Loyal, discreet and hardworking with a gsoh too! Excellent references.
Contact Richard on 07523 109534
Email. charliewhammond@aol.co.uk

MATURE LADY Carer seeks live in position on rota, CRB, car owner, experienced with excellent references. North East England, Scotland.
Contact Tel. 07860 602834

MATURE GENTLEMAN Seeks Live-In position. Building/Garden/ Mechanical - Maintenance, Caretaking, Driving - a total All-Rounder.
Email: chrisbthomas@hotmail.co.uk
Tel. 01438 869012

PRACTICAL, ADAPTABLE female and Labrador looking for flexible full/semi time position with separate accommodation & field. Gardening, working with animals, house caretaking/security, housekeeping, P.A work, pet sitting, cleaning, decorating, light cooking, cleaning - loves outdoors conservation or interior restoration. Work on small farm or country estate. West Dorset/ Hampshire/Wilts/Surrey/West Sussex.
Contact Tel. 01722 710522 or 07543 616111

EXPERIENCED CLEANER. Reliable, hardworking, trustworthy, efficient & pleasant seeks private work, own car based in Shirley, Solihull. References available,
Contact Mrs Joan Flynn on 07459 374313

CONSCIENCIOUS MALE Companion Carer with excellent verifiable references seeks post. 8 years with last employer.
Contact Tel. 07796 244116

SPANISH COMPOSER/Pianist/ Teacher with partial custody of a 10 year old girl seeks accommodation for domestic duties, suit elderly music lover. Live-in, West or Central London.
Contact Sergio 07811 458779

LIVE-IN CARER, highly, experienced, professional, hard working, compassionate, reliable. Excellent references, current DBS,
Tel. 07846 688019.
Email: theouna23@gmail.com

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THE LADY PUZZLE PAGES

THE LADYGRAM *compiled by Bert Baker*

1. Support ham in ancient form of amusement (10)	149	27	128	179	110	60	90	12	55	155			
2. Emotion felt by diplomat lacking oxygen? (4)	7	40	77	31									
3. Whack sir clumsily in this conveyance! (8)	75	154	28	50	172	94	130	117					
4. Sometimes mistyped taunt aimed at unarmed Harry Potter? (3,3,4)	181	147	170	18	70	92	135	115	25	107			
5. Admitting voice-over, Washington returned state (4)	152	105	2	45									
6. Wrecked trireme before specialist period after work (10)	127	51	63	168	146	23	96	72	100	175			
7. Initially diagnosed with extreme lupus, Tanya lived (5)	20	176	126	48	79								
8. Initiates alien hunters back following indication without origin (7)	85	124	165	10	132	65	47						
9. Hear no before dour hobo produced quarter (13)	173	144	66	156	162	74	36	43	17	138	81	102	62
10. Equal to feast, musical Brian against expression of disgust (6)	16	67	33	120	101	111							
11. Take a dip regularly, blast thee! (5)	159	39	83	3	104								
12. Clued-up political obsessive returned after upset ITN, eh? (2,3,4)	109	123	161	15	151	5	88	136	34				
13. Slow movers spike in Nazi organisation (6)	58	19	91	122	52	140							
14. Devise method for opening (8)	84	118	29	143	42	24	142	80					
15. Veteran composed solo riddle (3,7)	133	98	71	119	87	35	73	49	163	178			
16. Powerful Lord fixed mortal's pen (10)	158	171	30	148	69	150	11	59	129	37			
17. Hanky out again for this polite expression! (5,3)	14	125	46	103	164	41	177	160					
18. Rough exterior essential to Fu Manchu's kinsmen (4)	64	157	121	21									
19. Print gent mistaken about life force (7)	76	54	97	9	139	61	44						
20. Cooked pie after heading finger movement on screen (5)	86	8	99	137	113								
21. Mimic, fake oft confused (4,3)	108	57	153	93	13	145	82						
22. Lying concealed by fairest in garden (7)	114	166	134	68	95	22	182						
23. Clause, poll or ramp (4)	106	26	180	131									
24. Being fond of Jenny, I go prepared (8)	89	6	1	174	53	78	4	38					
25. A famous night, or spare man (7)	112	167	116	56	141	169	32						

A

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42
43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56
57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84
85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98
99	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112
113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120	121	122	123	124	125	126
127	128	129	130	131	132	133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140
141	142	143	144	145	146	147	148	149	150	151	152	153	154
155	156	157	158	159	160	161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168
169	170	171	172	173	174	175	176	177	178	179	180	181	182

B

The LADYGRAM is solved by placing the answers to the clues in Box A. Each letter of an answer in **Box A** is readily transferred into the corresponding numbered space in **Box B**, which, as you progress, will become identifiable as a quotation.

The initial letters of the answers in Box A will spell out the name of the author, plus the book from which the quotation was taken.

SOLUTION NEXT WEEK

SOLUTION

TO QUICK CROSSWORD, NO 882, PAGE 80

ACROSS
1 Coming **5** Clean
8 Senses **9** Roars
10 Spirits **11** Roses
14 Steps **17** Buckets
19 Agree **20** Arrest
22 Sadly **23** Screen

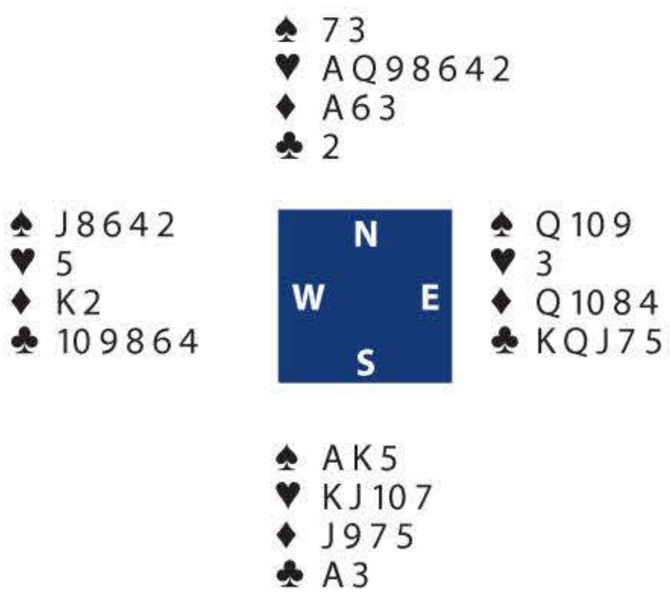
DOWN
2 Owe **3** Insane
4 Gases **5** Carries
6 Examine **7** Nests
8 Spur **12** Secured
13 Scenery **15** Terror
16 Suit **17** Beads
18 Seats **21** See

BRIDGE *by Gus Calderwood*

NO ESCAPE

Geir Helgemo and Tor Helness earned a substantial swing for their team by bidding and making a slam on the deal below from a quarter-final of the Vanderbilt Teams at the 2015 American Spring Nationals.

Dealer East. East-West vulnerable



SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
-	-	-	Pass
1NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♥	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♣	Pass	5♥	Pass
6♥	All Pass		

Opening lead: ♣10

With Helgemo and Helness sitting South and North respectively, the bidding went as shown. The 1NT opening showed a balanced hand with 15-17 points and the Three Club response was forcing to game with a singleton club. When South bid Three Hearts, indicating four hearts, North jumped to 4NT, which was Roman Keycard Blackwood in hearts. Five Clubs showed 0 or 3 keycards, with the four aces and the king of hearts counting as keycards, and Five Hearts was to play if South had no keycard. With his three keycards, South raised to Six Hearts.

Helgemo took the ten of clubs opening lead with the ace and ruffed a club with the eight of hearts. He then played a spade to the king and led the five of diamonds towards dummy. West gave his play some thought, as it might be necessary to play his partner for the queen-jack of diamonds and go up with the king to avoid being thrown in later. Helgemo realised that West must hold the doubleton king for his hesitation and claimed his contract, showing West his hand. Whether West played low or unblocked the king, Helgemo would win with the ace, draw trumps, cash the ace of spades, ruff a spade in dummy and lead a diamond towards the jack. If West had not unblocked, he would have to win with the king of diamonds and return a club or a spade, allowing Helgemo to discard dummy's last diamond and ruff in his hand. Alternatively, if West had unblocked the king of diamonds, Helgemo would score a trick with the jack of diamonds to make his slam.

At the other table East opened Two Clubs, showing an unbalanced hand with at least five clubs and 10-13 high-card points. South doubled for takeout, West raised pre-emptively to Four Clubs and North bid Four Hearts, which ended the auction. Declarer also received a club lead and played on similar lines to make 12 tricks, but Helgemo's team gained 11 imps on the board.

THIS WEEK'S PROBLEM

WEST	EAST
♠ A Q	♠ 8 5 2
♥ A K J 8	♥ 4
♦ K 5 4 2	♦ A Q 10 3
♣ A K Q	♣ J 6 5 4 2

West plays in 6NT and North leads the ♣10. Plan the play. (North has four clubs and a singleton ♦6.)

SOLUTION ON PAGE 80

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

There are five differences between the two images below - see if you can spot them



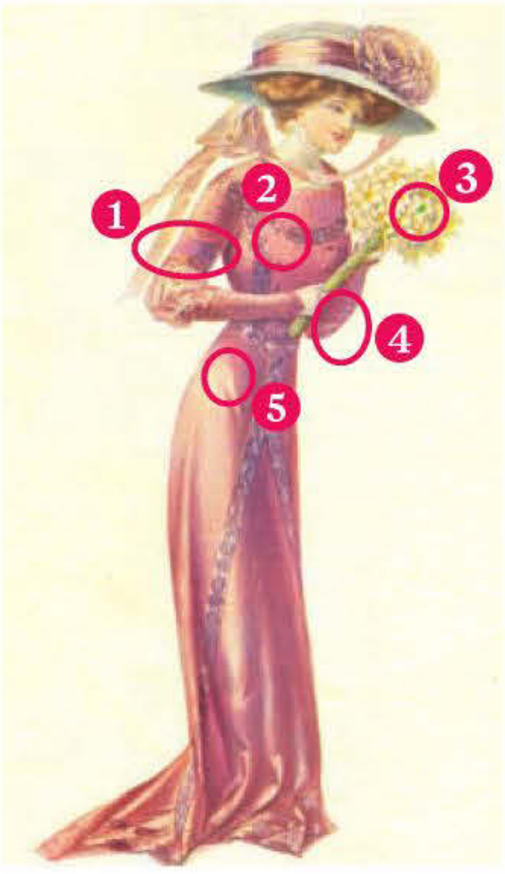
THE LADY ARCHIVE



SOLUTION NEXT WEEK

SOLUTION 3/7/2015

LAST WEEK'S DIFFERENCES ARE SHOWN CIRCLED BELOW



DIFFERENCES: 1 Stripe added on arm **2** Button missing **3** Centre of flower turned green **4** Part of sleeve missing **5** Fold missing on skirt

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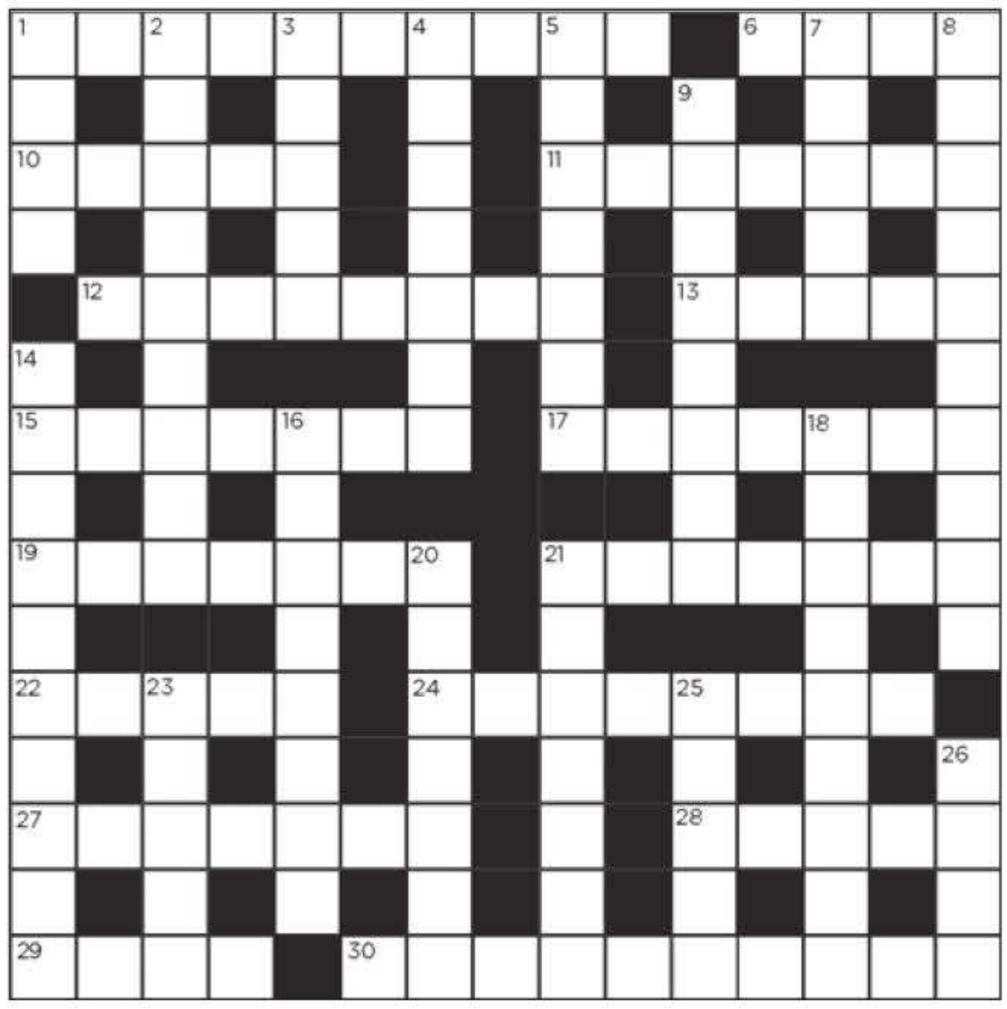
CROSSWORD *No. 1479 compiled by Eddie Waltham*

ACROSS

1 Tourists possibly seeing nomadic people (10)
6 Element found in the A-Z in capable hands (4)
10 Distress for the mounted group (5)
11 Land it in brain! (7)
12 Artistic, perhaps, yet somehow reactive (8)
13 Anagram of a cardinal number in that place (5)
15 Saying for recounting (7)
17 Care for a car in the navy, perhaps (7)
19 Trade in vehicles generally (7)
21 Peaceful large area with no land (7)
22 He brings to the surface a little acronym in error (5)
24 Pest is included in suspicion (8)
27 Type of energy could make Alec run around (7)
28 Hat, if tipped, shows credence (5)
29 A new user is certain (4)
30 Whip in flight. This makes things clearer at night (10)

DOWN

1 It's somewhat construed as faithful (4)
2 Al, if taken from this country, finds another in Europe (9)
3 Wide, maybe. Additional, certainly (5)
4 Bounding from a sort of pale gin sling (7)
5 Thieves changing second element for erasers (7)
7 Mileage adjusted without the French likeness (5)
8 Group discussion could create concern and fee adjustment (10)
9 Choirs, it turned out, could be a thing of the past (8)
14 Sent tamest members to make assertions (10)
16 At home with previous traitor? (8)
18 Fencing it badly and tainting it (9)
20 Have charge of the gear lever, e.g. (7)
21 Royalty manipulating pincers (7)
23 It's more pleasant in Spain. I certainly think so (5)
25 Parts of a chainsaw, fully adjustable but terrible (5)
26 It's closed thus, somehow (4)



NOTES



SOLUTION NEXT WEEK



HOROSCOPES

10 to 16 July 2015 by Victor Olliver

CANCER
22 June to 22 July
Much to your surprise, the 'new' something in your life comes with a money bonus. This relaunch has a practical purpose, then.

LEO
23 July to 23 August
Google 'country houses for relaxation' and pick a hotel (no kids!) for a short, restorative stay. What you seek is a sanctuary.

VIRGO
24 August to 22 September
A clash of wills (perhaps over 'artistic differences') sees you as David versus Goliath. And we all know how that battle ended!

LIBRA
23 September to 23 October
Miss Jean Brodie abhorred the herd mentality – rather as you do now. A group decision leaves you seething, so educate the collective.

SCORPIO
24 October to 22 November
A project started about a year ago is the subject of a power struggle over ideas. On this, compromise really is the answer.

SAGITTARIUS
23 November to 21 December
Cancer New Moon encourages introspection on matters of intimacy or money. Life throws you a clue to understanding a mystery.

CAPRICORN
22 December to 20 January
Membership of a group could be teetering to its end. You dislike louche spendthrifts – if nothing else, they're rather common.

AQUARIUS
21 January to 19 February
A tiresome detail prevents you from running naked through the trees. Or something like that. You'd be wise to be cautious.

PISCES
20 February to 20 March
A 'eureka' moment this week enables an intuition or artistic idea to germinate for future blooming. Have faith in your dreams.

ARIES
21 March to 20 April
Battle lines are drawn up at work or home. Oddly, on closer inspection, the two sides are more alike than not.

TAURUS
21 April to 21 May
The straight man in your double act is being boring about one of your domestic indulgences. Do not settle by arm-wrestling.

GEMINI
22 May to 21 June
Money's the issue, and a 'power that be' has a sum in mind that displeases you. If a principle is at stake, stick to it.

◆ *Lifesurfing: Your Horoscope Forecast Guide 2015, by Victor Olliver, is out now. Victorolliver.com Twitter @VictorOlliver*

THE LADY ARCHIVE

SUDOKU

NO 504 MODERATE
Fill the grid with the numbers 1 to 9 so that each row, column and 3x3 block contains the numbers 1 to 9
SOLUTION NEXT WEEK

8				2		7		
	4	7			6		1	
5					9			2
	6		1	9				5
9								4
1				3	2		6	
3			2					7
	9		8			5	4	
		5		6				1

SUDOKU SOLUTION 3/7/15 (503)

4	9	8	7	1	6	3	2	5
5	7	6	2	9	3	1	8	4
1	3	2	5	4	8	6	9	7
3	6	4	8	5	9	7	1	2
2	1	9	3	6	7	4	5	8
7	8	5	4	2	1	9	3	6
8	4	7	1	3	2	5	6	9
6	2	1	9	7	5	8	4	3
9	5	3	6	8	4	2	7	1

ANSWERS: BOOKS AND THEATRE

PAGE 56: Dirk Gently's Holistic Detective Agency by Douglas Adams
PAGE 57: Of Mice And Men by John Steinbeck (below)
PAGE 61: Saint Joan by George Bernard Shaw



BRIDGE SOLUTION FROM PAGE 77



Win the first trick and cash the remaining two top clubs in your hand. Now cash the ♦K and play a diamond to the ace. When North shows out, cash the ♣J, discarding a diamond from your hand, and lead the ♥4, covering South's card. If North wins, he will have to return a spade or a heart, giving you your slam.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD SOLUTION 3/7/15 (1478)

ACROSS
1 Steel **5** Seals **8** Advancing
9 These **10** Sides **12** Items
13 Diaries **15** Spanish
17 Happens **19** Seaweed
21 Seats **22** Sacks **25** Aside
26 Identical **27** Doses
28 Meets

DOWN
1 Stays **2** Erase **3** Critics
4 Degrees **5** Sorts
6 Argentine **7** Sweep
11 Shine **14** Appetites
16 Amass **18** Staying
19 Sisters **20** Named
21 Sells **23** Arise
24 Sales

THE LADYGRAM SOLUTION 3/7/15

D	O	R	I	S	S	A	T	O	N	T	H	E	B
E	D	D	R	Y	I	N	G	H	E	R	E	Y	E
S	A	N	D	W	I	N	D	I	N	G	T	H	E
C	L	O	C	K	S	H	E	S	E	T	T	H	E
H	A	N	D	S	B	Y	H	E	R	W	R	I	S
T	W	A	T	C	H	P	R	E	S	E	N	T	L
Y	S	H	E	C	A	R	E	F	U	L	L	Y	M
O	V	E	D	T	H	E	H	A	N	D	S	T	O
T	W	O	M	I	N	U	T	E	S	O	F	T	E
N	S	H	E	C	A	R	R	I	E	D	T	H	E
C	L	O	C	K	O	V	E	R	T	O	T	H	E
D	R	E	S	S	E	R	A	N	D	P	R	O	P
P	E	D	I	T	U	P	T	H	E	R	E		

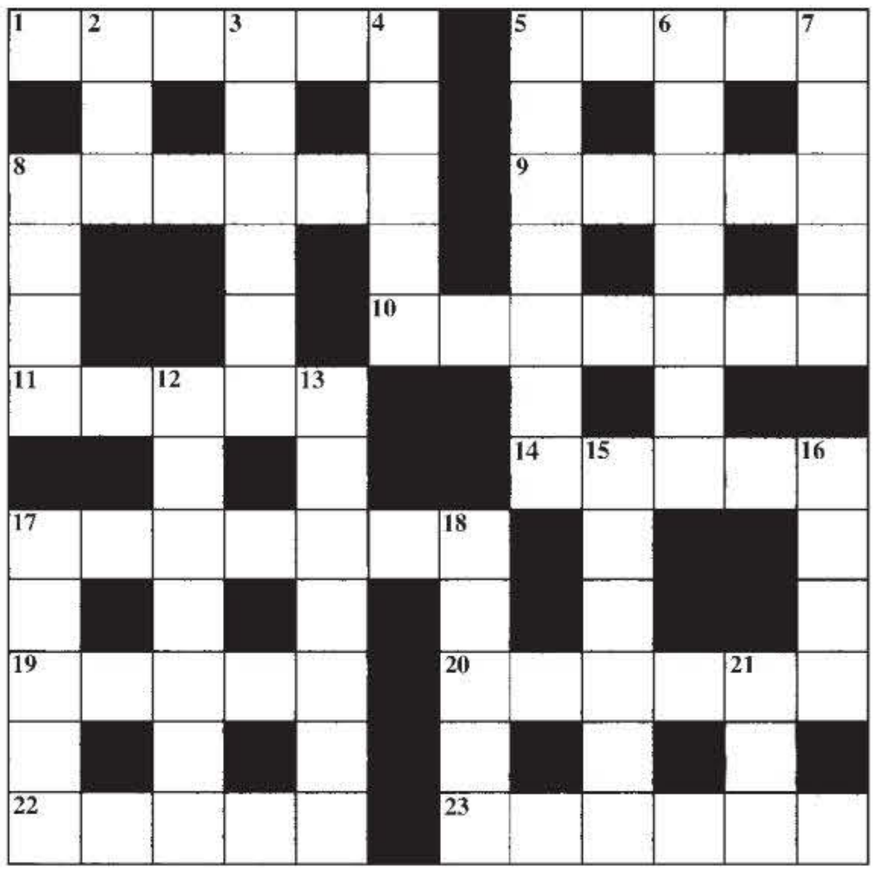
1. P OINTS OF ORDER
2. H OPEFULLY
3. I N GOOD HEALTH
4. L ANDMINE
5. I NSIDE OUT
6. P UMPS
7. K INGSTANDING
8. D ISTANCE
9. I NCORRECT
10. C HECK OVER
11. K ESTREL
12. B LUEBERRY
13. E VERYWHERE
14. Y ESTERYEAR
15. O THERWISE
16. N EWS STAND
17. D RAUGHTS
18. T HREADBARE
19. H OTSHOTS
20. E ACH-WAY
21. D ICTATORSHIP
22. O BSERVATION
23. O PERA HOUSE
24. R IGHT-HANDED

PHILIP K DICK
Beyond The Door

QUICK CROSSWORD *No. 882 by Weald*

SOLUTION ON PAGE 76





ACROSS
1 On its way here (6)
5 Dirt-free (5)
8 Feels instinctively (6)
9 Sounds like a lion (5)
10 Strong drinks (7)
11 Flowers with thorns (5)
14 Paces (5)
17 Pails (7)
19 Concur (5)
20 Take into custody (6)
22 Unhappily (5)
23 To vet or monitor (6)

DOWN
2 Be in debt (3)
3 Mad (6)
4 Oxygen, nitrogen, etc (5)
5 Transports, bears (7)
6 Test (7)
7 Birds' homes (5)
8 Goad, urge on (4)
12 Made fast (7)
13 Stage backdrop, etc (7)
15 Blind panic (6)
16 Formal outfit (4)
17 Decorative balls (5)
18 Places to sit (5)
21 Spot, notice (3)

Advertisement

CASH PRIZES AWARDED 10AM THIS FRIDAY 17TH OF JULY!

Win £17,007!

PLUS 69 BONUS PRIZES AVAILABLE!

all words read DIAGONALLY

Find the 3 missing words for the chance to win £17,007 cash. There is 1 missing word from each word list.

WORD LIST 1	WORD LIST 2	WORD LIST 3
SKYFALL	MARTINI	GOLDFINGER
MOORE	MONEYPENNY	GUN
THUNDERBALL	CASINO	CONNERY
FLEMING	ODDJOB	MOONRAKER
BOND	ASTON MARTIN	JAWS

S	D	S	J	M	Y	U	I	O	L	K	G	D	C	M	S	F
Y	K	T	H	A	R	Q	O	N	E	D	O	G	O	Y	L	I
O	E	Y	S	R	W	Y	G	H	J	K	L	N	G	E	O	A
O	D	R	F	T	I	S	L	E	O	D	E	J	M	B	S	K
N	R	D	N	A	T	A	U	P	R	Y	F	I	K	T	N	P
M	H	E	J	N	L	G	K	L	P	T	N	R	O	Y	R	B
A	U	C	I	O	A	L	H	E	E	G	N	N	F	H	A	K
T	M	A	T	E	B	U	N	H	L	M	M	T	L	U	K	O
T	H	C	P	F	G	N	A	N	U	A	E	P	R	E	E	Y
I	H	U	L	S	Y	I	K	D	R	D	R	S	M	W	R	J
N	A	T	N	A	D	M	H	T	K	E	I	O	M	R	J	G
R	N	G	H	D	C	O	I	N	A	R	Y	O	N	L	O	W
H	U	U	I	R	E	N	H	E	S	B	O	R	U	L	B	E
N	E	D	F	G	H	R	Y	T	U	N	E	W	D	D	F	A
F	J	P	W	S	E	E	B	E	R	L	L	F	K	L	M	T
R	T	A	Y	U	I	H	J	A	E	H	I	S	I	A	P	H
T	K	O	U	M	T	N	K	S	L	N	U	I	R	O	A	E
C	C	S	O	P	O	E	R	W	G	L	C	T	B	E	D	R
B	P	O	S	P	R	L	A	E	E	L	I	S	I	O	P	N
T	R	O	U	R	P	X	R	W	I	N	U	I	K	O	A	L
E	E	U	T	F	F	S	R	I	I	U	C	B	A	E	D	M

PLUS: This puzzle also contains the £1,000 Hidden Mystery Word!

"Thank you for the cheque. It was such a nice surprise. This will be spent on exotic holidays. It's the most I've ever won in my life. Thank you."

K.Rothwell, Bolton, recently won £2,777!

Other Recent Winners

D.Spencer London: £6,500

S.Burnell Somerset: £3,500

M.Leacock Middlesex: £2,500



R.Firth, London: £4,000

P.Farley, Crowborough: £2,500

HURRY! CLOSES MIDNIGHT THURSDAY 16TH JULY!

To help us celebrate over 60 years of watching Britain's favourite Secret Service Agent, James Bond, **we're giving you the chance to claim £17,007 cash!** Simply find the THREE MISSING WORDS and activate your entry for the draw on the answer phoneline by Midnight on Thursday 16th July. All prizes will be awarded this Friday 17th of July! Sound easy? It's not! Our Puzzle Experts have acknowledged the difficulty of diagonal word recognition for years. Given the significant amount of prize money available for the 007 Cash Bonanza, it's no surprise Puzzle Managers have favoured a puzzle containing diagonally hidden words only. Word recognition is key, and Bond fans may recognise a higher proportion of the competition wordlists, but it is those readers with a keen eye for detail and perseverance which we believe will be most successful in claiming one of seventy cash prizes available – it always is!

For those of you who want an additional challenge, try to find the SEVEN letter word that is hidden within the grid but NOT listed in any of the three word lists for the chance to win an extra £1,000. Cash prizes awarded this Friday!

Leave your correct puzzle answers on 0906 661 1382*

Calls cost £1.50 per min plus your phone company's access charge. Calls last 3 mins. Max call cost £4.50.

As a responder to this promotion you may receive offers from Wynnington Ltd and other third party companies. If you do not wish to receive these offers please write to us at Wynnington Opt Out, PO Box 100, Blackburn, BB2 9FL, call 0808 129 0484 or email optout@wynnington.co.uk. YOU MUST BE A UK RESIDENT OVER 18 TO PARTICIPATE. MOBILES OR PUBLIC PAYPHONES ARE CHARGED CONSIDERABLY MORE. ***At the end of the call you're given the option to transfer to another phone line to register your answer for the extra £1000 Hidden Mystery Word Competition. If you choose to do so the second call will cost £1.50 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Calls will last 3 minutes. Maximum call cost £4.50. Maximum call cost to enter both competitions combined is £9.00.** The 007 Cash Bonanza may be promoted via different forms and layouts of print media and may include different puzzle variations. Each correct entrant is allocated a unique number between 1 and 577,777. Prizes available: 1 x £17,007; 12 x Secondary Prizes of £1000; 57 x Minor Prizes of £150. One winning number will be independently drawn for each available prize and if there is an exact match with an active entry the prize will be awarded. Alternative free postal entry: send your name, address and original completed puzzle sheet to customer services, marking your envelope 'The 007 Cash Bonanza'. Approximate odds of winning a cash prize: 1:8253. Draw date: 17/07/2015. The extra £1000 Hidden Mystery Word Competition is run in conjunction with a number of other Wynnington competitions and requires entrants to identify the 7 letter hidden mystery word in any one of these separate Wynnington puzzles. The 1x £1,000 prize will be drawn on 22/12/2015. Wynnington are not responsible for printing or technical errors, or events outside their reasonable control, and reserve the right to amend competition rules and draw process to ensure a fair competition, if required. All winners' information, testimonials and photographs may be used for publicity purposes without further consent. Actors' photos may be used. Our Registered Office is 23 Shackleton Court, 2 Maritime Quay, LONDON, E14 3QF but **all competition related queries should be directed to Wynnington Customer Services below.** This promotion is not connected to this publication. Wynnington Ltd is registered in Great Britain no: 8271507 T/A The 007 Cash Bonanza Copyright by Wynnington Ltd 2015. 1960. **Wynnington Customer Services, The 007 Cash Bonanza, PO Box 100, Blackburn, BB2 9FL or call 0125 450 3585.**

'I dislike my desire to collect famous friends'



FIRST IMPRESSIONS

RACHEL JOHNSON

...is a journalist, broadcaster, novelist and Mail On Sunday columnist who gained notoriety in 2009 by becoming the ninth editor of this distinguished title. She lives in London with her husband, three children and dog, Coco.

What are working on at the moment? I am working on my backhand. I've got a new novel out as well as my weekly column. I have three kidults at home as well as Coco the dog, so my hands seem fuller than ever.

When were you at your happiest? Now.

What is your greatest fear? Anything happening to my children.

What is your earliest memory? Standing on a chair next to my brother and looking out over the kitchen sink from my grandparents' house in Cavendish Avenue, St John's Wood, and seeing my mother and father arrive home with baby Leo in a crib from St John's and St Elizabeth (where I was born too). When the crib arrived in the kitchen we peered in and my father had substituted the newborn for a cauliflower.

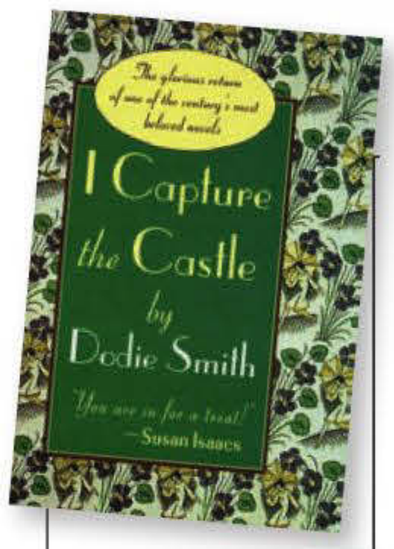
What do you most dislike about yourself? I dislike my impatience, my social-climbing, my desire to collect famous friends, my name-dropping, my vanity, my selfishness, my inability to put others first all the time, my lack of religious faith... I could go on and on, and others would have plenty to say, I know, if I missed any of my many character flaws out.

Who has been your greatest influence? My family and other animals.

What is your most treasured possession? My photograph albums. I am so behind now I feel guilty when I see them but they are the first thing I'd rescue in a blaze.

What trait do you most deplore in others? Laziness. Rudeness. Failure to grab life by the b*lls.

What do you most dislike about your appearance? Nose, hockey-player's calves, lowborn forehead.





Rachel's raves: I Capture The Castle; inviting Jilly Cooper to dinner; she dreams of her mother's spaghetti bolognese, and her top film is Withnail & I





What is your favourite book? I Capture The Castle by Dodie Smith.

What is your favourite film? Withnail & I.

And your favourite piece of music? That's impossible!

What is your favourite meal? I still dream of my mother's spaghetti bolognese and miss her cooking.

Who would you most like to come to dinner? Off the top of my head, Tom Stoppard, Mick Jagger, Barack Obama, Joanna Lumley, Jilly Cooper, the Duchess of Cornwall, Jemima Khan, Andrew Neil and Edward St Aubyn.

What is the nastiest thing anyone has ever said to you? Once Anthony Howard wrote in The Times, I think, that I only had my work printed because of Boris. It made me determined to prove him wrong, though of course one only ever believes the criticism, never the praise, so I still worry he was right.

Do you believe in aliens? No.

What is your secret vice? None of my vices are secret.

Do you write thank-you notes? Invariably. The editor will get one for commissioning this.

Which phrase do you most overuse? 'Hold on a sec...'

What single thing would improve the quality of your life? A better backhand.

Can you tell us one thing people might not know about you? My hair goes curly if I don't blow dry it.

What would you like your epitaph to read? 'Daughter, Wife, and Mother'.

◆ *Fresh Hell, by Rachel Johnson, is published by Penguin, priced £7.99.*

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